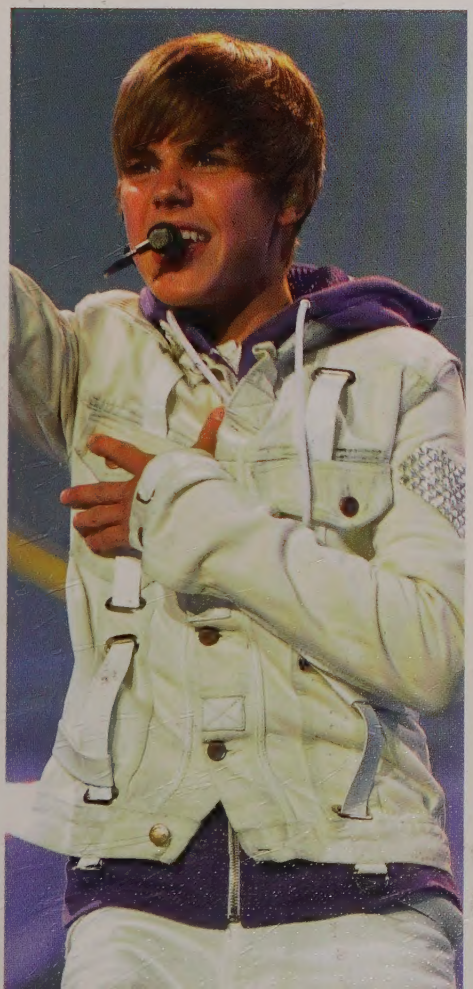
# CANADA

## PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

# ENTERTAINMENT



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# ENTERTAINMENT

EDITED BY HEATHER KISSOCK

Weigl

Published by Weigl Educational Publishers Limited
6325 10th Street SE
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 2Z9
Website: www.weigl.ca

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Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Entertainment / edited by Heather Kissock.
(Canada, past, present, future)
Includes index.
ISBN 978-1-77071-673-5 (bound).--ISBN 978-1-77071-676-6 (pbk.)
1. Entertainment events--Canada--History--20th century--Juvenile literature. I. Kissock, Heather
II. Series: Canada, past, present, future

PN2304.E67 2011 j790.0971'0904 C2011-900812-2

Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 15 14 13 12 11

052011
WEP37500

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for our publishing activities.

**EDITOR: Heather Kissock**
**DESIGN: Terry Paulhus**

Entertainment

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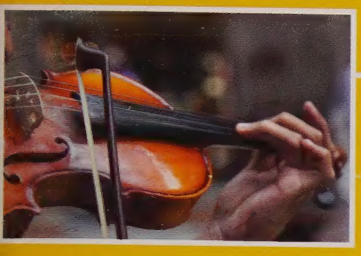

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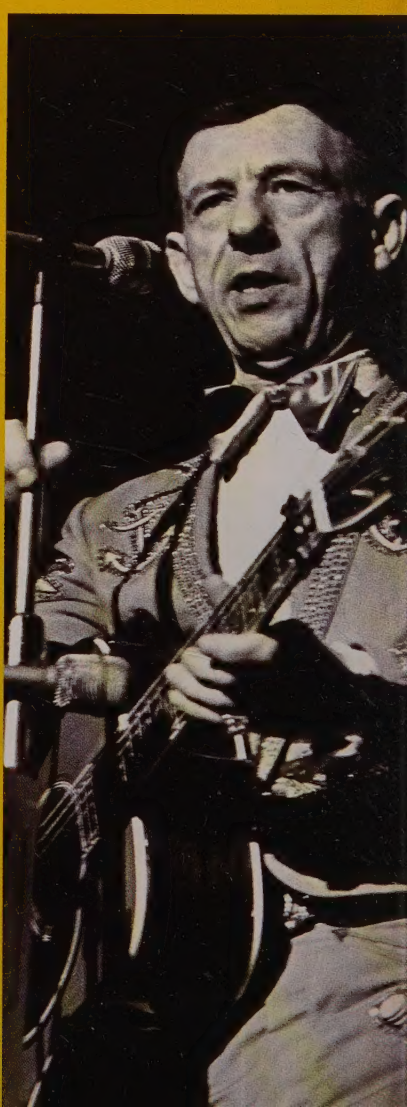
## Entertainment

# Through The Years

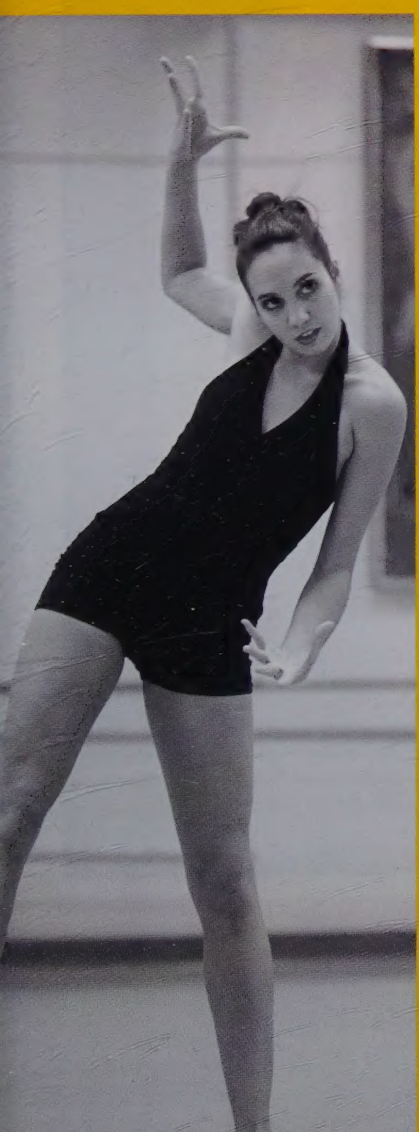
Entertainment plays a big role in the lives of Canadians. The forms of entertainment vary in many ways. Some are almost unnoticeable and can be as simple as a song playing on the radio. Others operate on a grander level, with full symphony orchestras accompanying opera or ballet performers. Whatever scale or form the entertainment takes on, it serves to amuse, relax, and enlighten the people who serve as an audience to it.

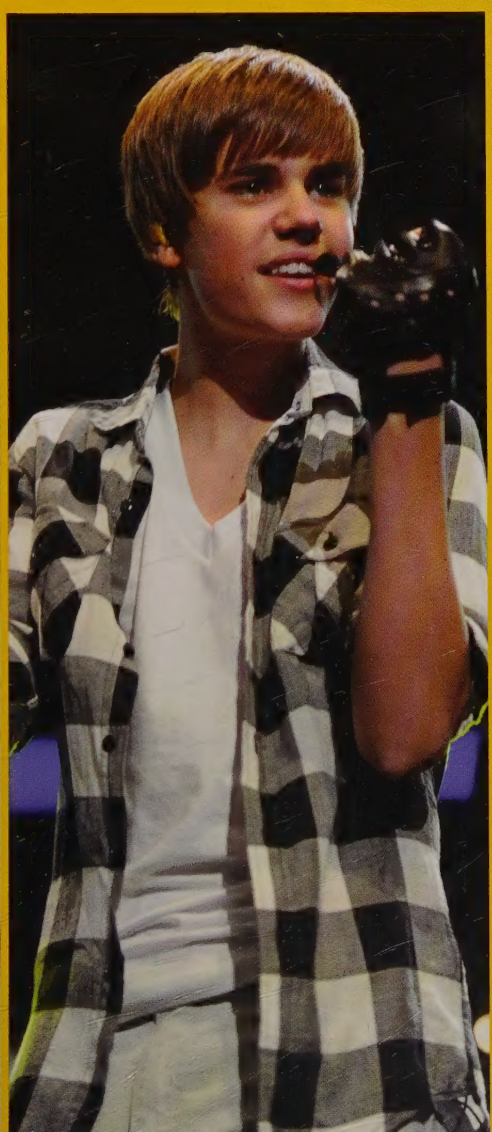
The cultural and artistic pursuits of Canadian citizens also contribute to the country's identity. With the United States for a neighbour, it has not always been easy for Canada to cultivate its own identity. The country has been heavily influenced by music, television shows, and movies created in the United States. Still, Canada has been able to develop forms of entertainment that speak to the unique needs and interests of its citizens.

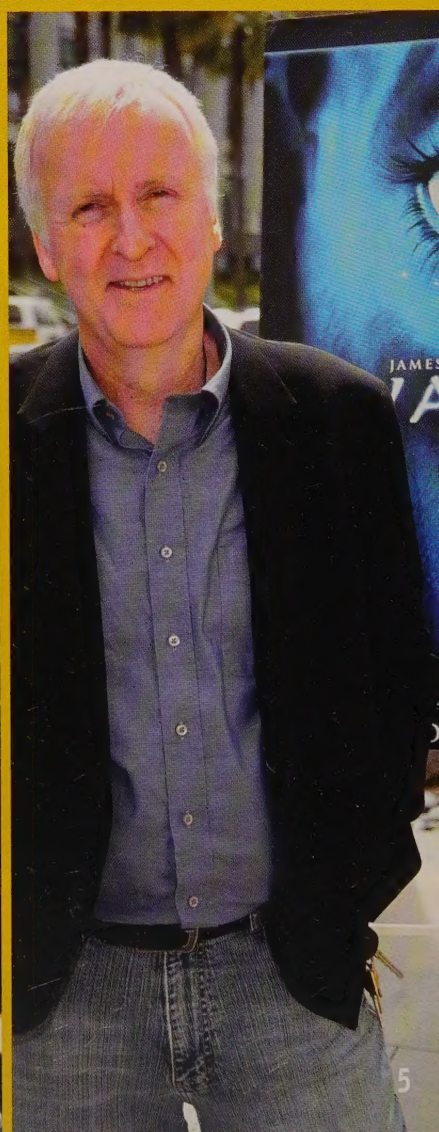


In fact, as Canada's entertainment industry has grown, it has taken on an international scope. Movies and television shows made by Canadians are shown on screens all over the world. Canadian singers and musicians play to packed stadiums and concert halls across the globe. As a result, Canadian culture and identity are being shared with the global community.

Canadians are now perceived as being among some of the most talented and innovative entertainers in the world. They are pushing the envelope in all areas of the entertainment industry, from filmmaking to music to dance. In doing so, they are not only elevating these forms of entertainment, but also helping to redefine the concepts of art and entertainment, how they interact, and where their future lies.



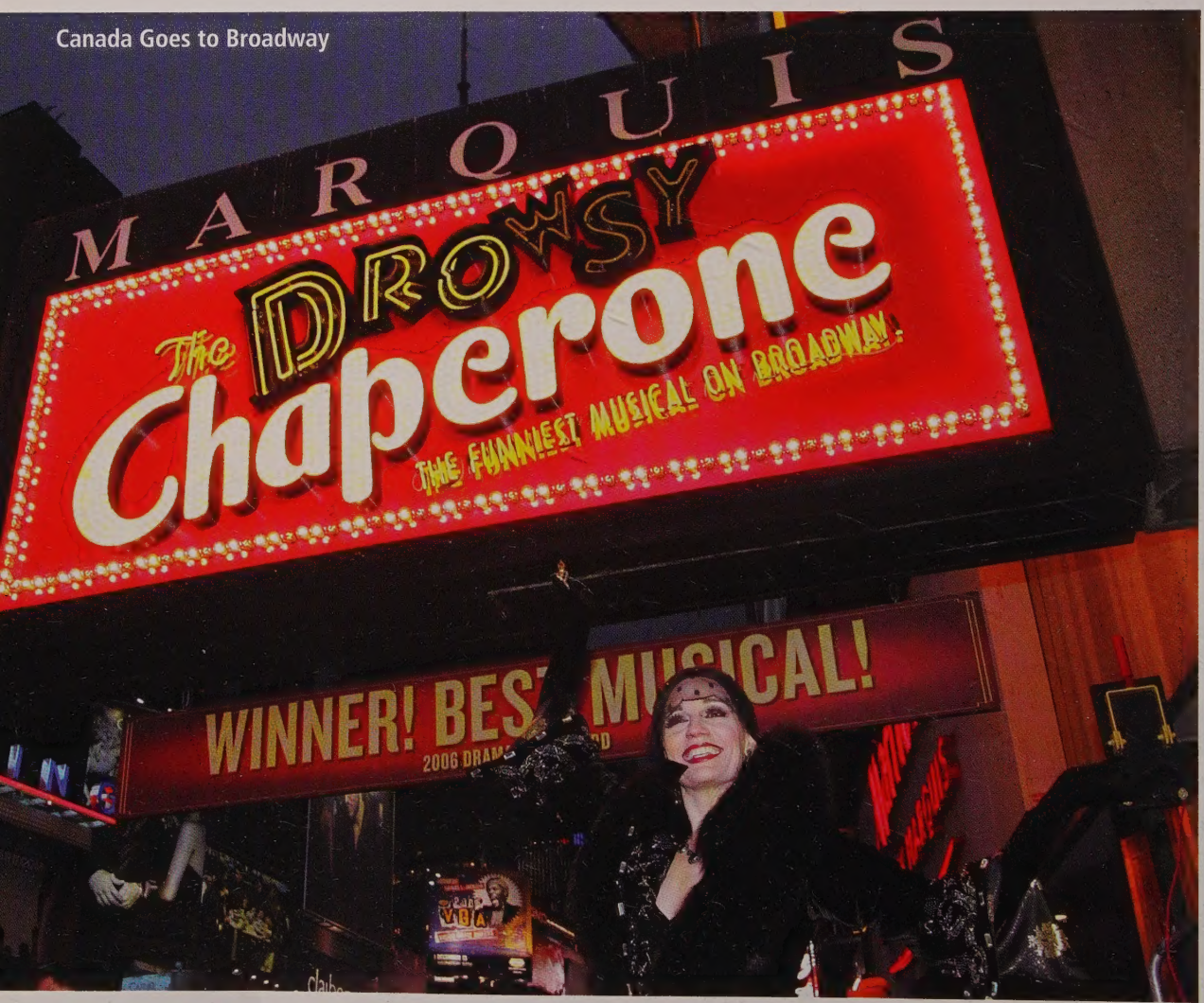




## 2006

### Canada Goes to Broadway

Who would have thought that a play created as entertainment for an engagement party would end up as a **Tony Award**-winning Broadway musical? Such is the case for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a play written by four Canadians. The play, a spoof of musicals from the early 1900s, went through several incarnations from its initial performance at the engagement party. By 2001, however, it was playing at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre. It was there that the play attracted the attention of a New York producer. He decided to take the production to Broadway. It opened in New York in 2006, where it later won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score. The success of the Broadway show led to productions in other countries, including England, Australia, and Japan. It also toured throughout North America.



Canada Goes to Broadway

## 2001

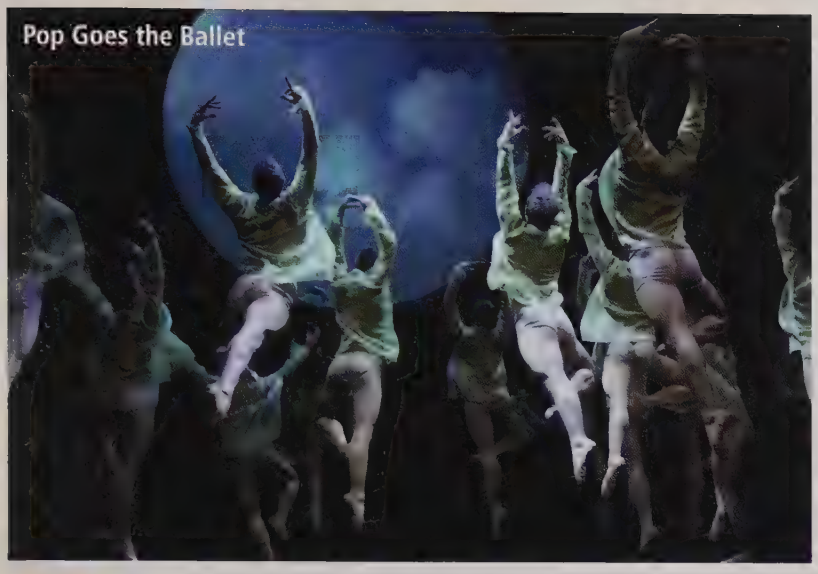
Bruce Cockburn is inducted to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

## 2002

Joni Mitchell wins a **Grammy Award** for Lifetime Achievement.

## 2003

Canadian Idol premiers on CTV and is hosted by Ben Mulroney.


Pop Goes the Ballet

## 2007

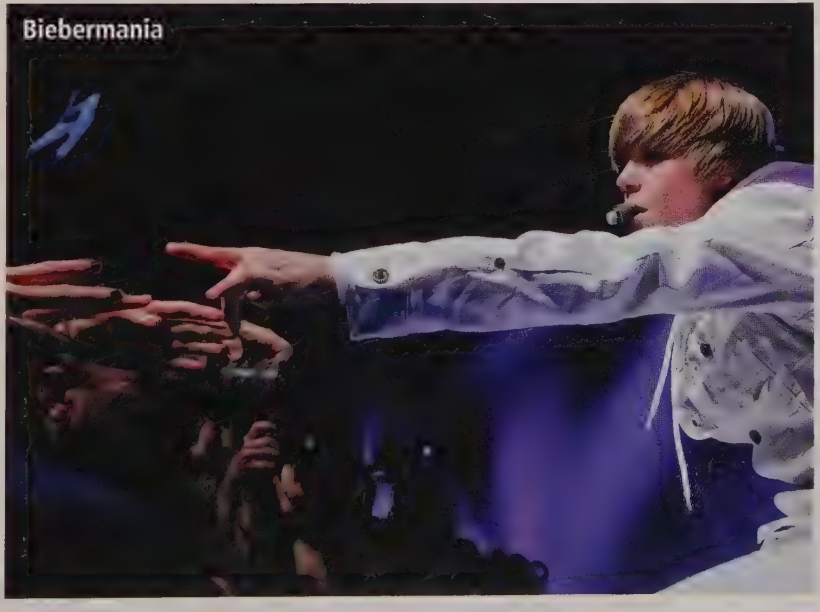
### Pop Goes the Ballet

**Pop culture** met the world of ballet in 2007 when Alberta Ballet teamed with folk singer Joni Mitchell to produce a ballet based on her songs. Called *The Fiddle and the Drum*, the ballet explored many of the themes prevalent in Mitchell's music, including world conflict and environmental neglect. It opened to sold-out crowds and eventually toured Canada and parts of the United States. A film version of the ballet was also developed, and the ballet itself was expanded two years later to include several more of Mitchell's songs. The success of this collaboration led Alberta Ballet to seek more pop artists to work with. Since *The Fiddle and the Drum*, the company has created ballets around the music of pop icon Elton John and Canadian songstress Sarah McLachlan. These, too, have met with great success.

## 2007

### Biebermania

No one can attest to the power of the Internet more so than Justin Bieber. In 2007, his mother began posting homemade videos to YouTube of him singing and playing guitar. The videos were meant for friends and family to view, but within months, his postings had received millions of hits. This eventually led to a meeting with R&B superstar Usher. The two met in Atlanta, Georgia, where Usher helped Bieber get a **recording contract**. Bieber's first album, *My World*, was released in 2009 and quickly gained platinum status. Bieber was the new teen sensation. His concerts sold out stadiums, his face appeared on magazine covers worldwide, and he was in demand for television appearances. By 2010, he had written his autobiography, guest starred on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, and had a documentary made on his life. All of this took place before he had even reached 17 years of age.


Biebermania

## 2004

The Barbarian Invasions wins the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

## 2005

Ian Tyson's "Four Strong Winds" is voted greatest Canadian song of all time by CBC Radio One listeners.

James Cameron's Avatar

## 2009

### James Cameron's Avatar

Canadian filmmaker James Cameron has made many blockbuster movies over the course of his career. In 2009, however, he outdid himself with the release of *Avatar*. The science fiction epic explored themes of environmental resources, **imperialism**, and humanity. Originally scheduled for a 1999 release, Cameron had to delay the production of the movie because the technology he needed to create his vision had not yet been invented. When he was able to move ahead, computer-generated actors worked alongside human actors to convey a futuristic world. The film was released in traditional theatres as well as in 3-D formats for a more interactive experience. Audiences flocked to movie theatres worldwide, and the film quickly broke box office records, becoming the highest-**grossing** film of all time. It also received critical acclaim, winning three Academy Awards. Cameron has planned two sequels for *Avatar* with the hope of matching or exceeding this success.

## 2010

### An Olympic Opening

On February 12, approximately 13.3 million Canadians tuned in to watch the opening of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, making the ceremony one of the most watched programs in Canadian television history. Held at BC Place Stadium, the opening ceremony was a glitzy affair that paid homage to both sports and Canadian culture. Well-known Canadian performers, including Sarah McLachlan, Nelly Furtado, Bryan Adams, and jazz singer Nikki Yanofsky, welcomed the world to the Olympics, while Aboriginal dancers, Eastern Canadian fiddlers, and slam poets demonstrated the breadth of Canada's cultural landscape. At the end of the ceremony, the Olympic cauldron was raised from the stadium floor and the flame ignited. The games officially began.

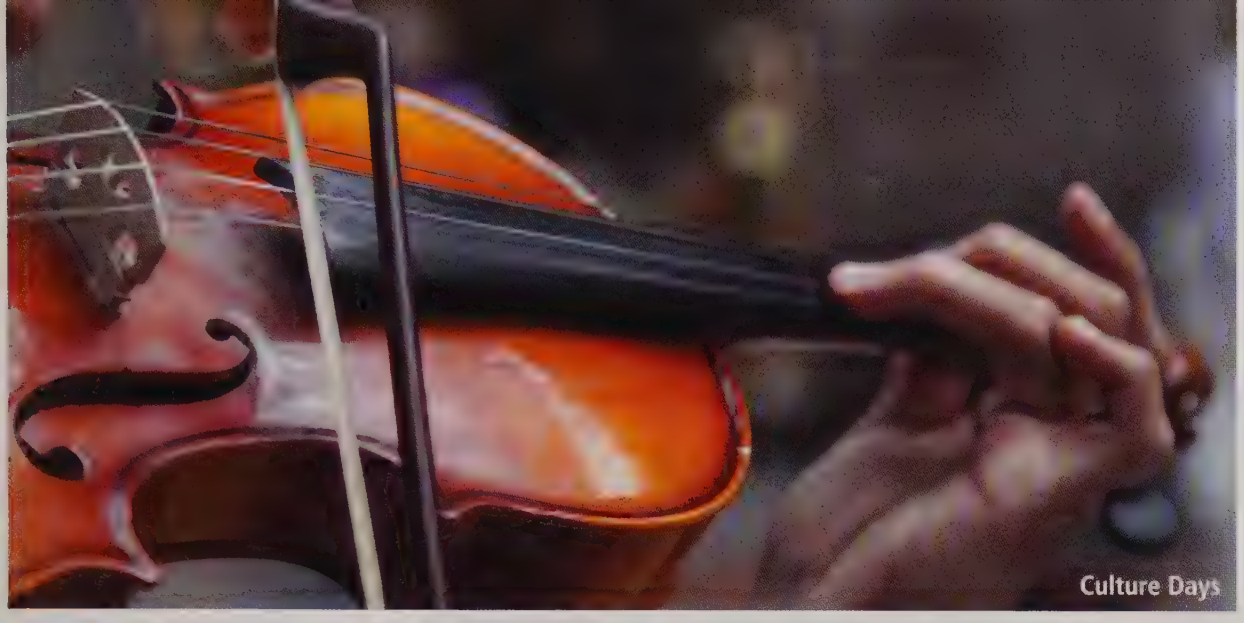
An Olympic Opening

## 2006

Music producer David Foster is appointed to the Order of Canada.

## 2007

Celia Franca, founder of the National Ballet of Canada, dies in Ottawa.



Culture Days

## 2010

### Culture Days

In April, cultural groups across Canada came together to announce the creation of Culture Days. Every year, a weekend in September would be set aside to celebrate arts and culture in Canada. The weekend would be chock full of performances, workshops, displays, and lectures to highlight the artistic and cultural talent found within the country. Culture Days grew from the success of two other similar provincial events. For 13 years, Quebec had held an annual festival called Journées de la culture, which had been immensely successful at introducing people to the Quebec arts scene. In 2008, Alberta had instituted its Arts Days event to similar success. The first cross-country Culture Days events were held in September 2010. More than 4,500 free activities and events were held in 700 Canadian cities and towns. Millions of Canadians took part as planners, volunteers, and attendees.

## Into the Future

**The merging of popular culture with classical arts, such as ballet or opera, can sometimes produce mixed results. How do the arts benefit from introducing popular culture into their programs? How does popular culture benefit? Are there any negative aspects to combining the two forms of entertainment?**

## 2008

Feist wins Artist of the Year at the Juno Awards.

## 2009

K'naan's "Wavin' Flag" is named the official theme song of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

# 1990s

East Coast Music

1990s

## East Coast Music

East Coast musicians dominated much of the Canadian music scene in the 1990s. Part of this domination may be because there is so much music on the East Coast. People explain that making music is an important part of East Coast culture. Audiences are not supposed to just sit and watch a musical act. Talented or not, they are supposed to participate. Children grow up making and creating music. This culture turned out a string of national and international successes during the 1990s. Fiddlers such as Ashley MacIsaac and Natalie MacMaster gave traditional sounds their own twist. Bands such as the Rankin Family, Irish Descendants, and Great Big Sea had hits with both traditional and original music. Many of these hits deal with issues common in East Coast life, such as the closing of fisheries and unemployment. So many bands were on the scene that the East Coast Music Awards was regarded as the place to hear some of Canada's best music.

1990s

## Tugboat Charm

"My three-year-old son William and I had this running game where we would name all the objects in the house, like the fridge, the couch, the car. One day while I was down by the harbour, I noticed the tugboats going about their business and in about four minutes I came up with the concept for the show. The name Theodore just popped into my head," explains Andrew Cochrane, producer of the children's television show *Theodore Tugboat*. Theodore, a 15-minute show, was an anchor for CBC's morning children's programming. The show featured a miniature set of the Halifax harbour, models of real tugboats, and scripts that are often based on real events. This thread of reality kept the show from being too simple for its young fans. Watched by children in more than 50 countries, Theodore had an activity website that drew more than 25,000 visitors a week.

Tugboat Charm

**1991**

James Cameron's *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* is the year's highest grossing film.

**1992**

*North of 60* premiers on CBC Television.

**1993**

*This Hour has 22 Minutes* begins broadcasting on CBC.

1990s

## Selling Out Avonlea

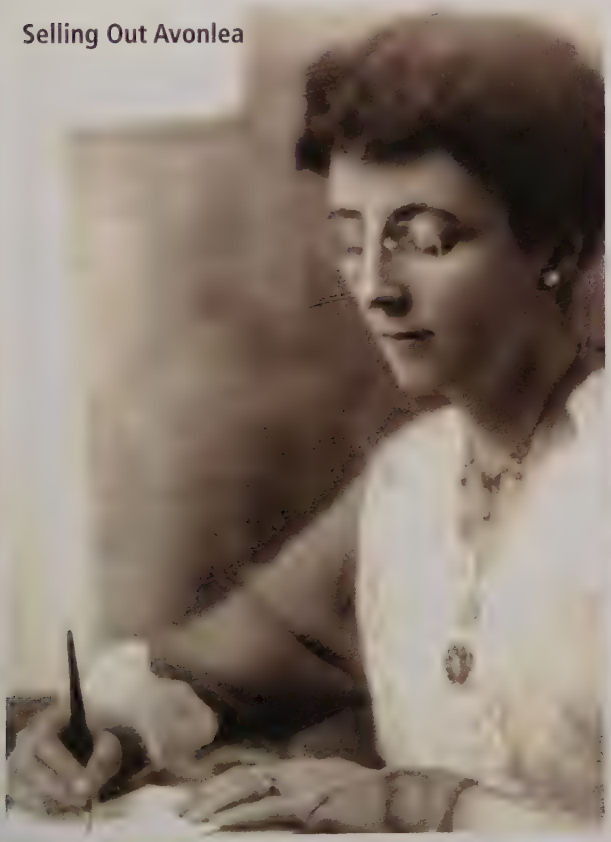
Canadians watching their country in American films are used to seeing their signs and landmarks disguised. Areas across the country are often made over to appear as American sites in movies and television shows. Usually, Canadians are tolerant of the changes. Just do not mess with a Canadian classic. When producers of *Emily of New Moon*, a television show based on the books by L.M. Montgomery, had students in a 19th-century classroom say "zee" instead of "zed," they went too far. "They should have 'zed' in there," said an angry language expert from Prince Edward Island, "and if Americans have to scratch their heads, that's too bad." Changes to the book's story to make the show more contemporary were also soundly criticized by Montgomery's fans.

1995

## Jagged Little Pill

Pop star Madonna said Alanis Morissette reminded her of herself when she was starting her career. In 1995, Madonna saw a tape of Alanis performing. Madonna's recording company jumped at the chance to sign the young singer to a contract. The result was *Jagged Little Pill*, a smash hit in 1995. Alanis became the first female Canadian with an album at the number one position on **Billboard**'s top 200 album chart. Her music was praised for being full of emotional truth. For many people in the music business, her music was a surprise. In 1992, while still in high school, Alanis recorded an album that was a pop hit. Critics disliked her dance-style music and did not take her talent seriously. When Alanis's second album flopped, even with fans, she took time off for several years. With her 1995 comeback, she gained the respect of both fans and critics.

Selling Out Avonlea



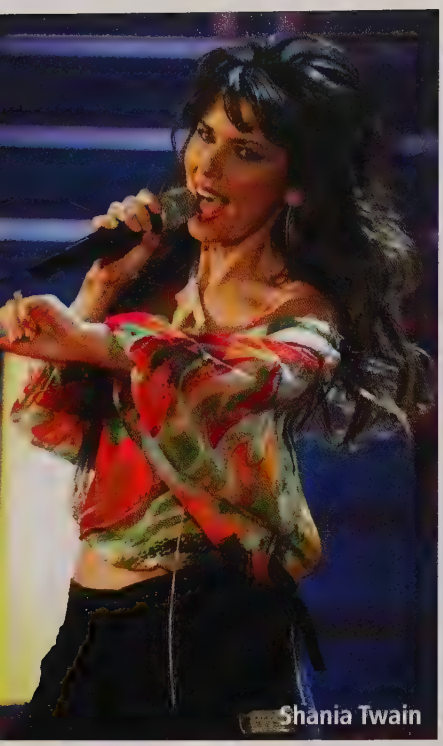
Jagged Little Pill

**1994**

*Due South*, a television show starring Paul Gross as a Mountie living in Chicago, debuts.

**1995**

*Front Page Challenge*, Canada's long-running news game show, is cancelled by CBC.


Shania Twain

## 1995

### Shania Twain

You would never guess it from her glamorous videos, but Shania Twain is no stranger to hard times. Her family did not have much money as she grew up. She started singing in country bars when she was eight years old to help her family survive. When she was in her early twenties, her parents were killed in a car accident. She continued singing to support her younger siblings. She changed her name from Eileen to Shania, which means "I'm on my way" in Ojibwa. Shania wanted to honour her adopted father, an Ojibwa man. "I took [Shania] because I wanted something unique and something beautiful for myself and also, since my dad wasn't alive anymore, I felt it would somehow keep me connected to him." She recorded an album in 1993, but it was not very successful. For her second album in 1995, Shania and her husband wrote the music. *The Woman in Me* became the world's best-selling album by a female country music artist.

## 1997

### Lilith Fair

"I wanted my independence like everyone else that age, and I guess I was luckier than most to have it offered to me on a platter," explained Sarah McLachlan about her quick success. She was offered a recording contract when she was just 17, but her parents would not let her accept it. When she was 19, another offer came, and Sarah moved from Halifax to Vancouver to begin her career. She became famous for more than her respected albums in 1996. When Sarah requested that another female performer open her concert, she was told it was impossible. Concert promoters said audiences would not accept an all-woman act. The refusal brought out Sarah's rebellion, "I wanted to prove them wrong—and so I did." The result was Lilith Fair, a touring festival of female acts that became one of the biggest, most popular tours of 1997. Lilith Fair toured to great success again in 1998 and 1999.

Lilith Fair

**1996** Shania Twain wins the Juno Award for Entertainer of the Year.

**1997** Karen Kain retires as principal dancer of the National Ballet of Canada.

**1998** James Cameron wins the best director Academy Award for *Titanic*.

## 1998

### End of Morningside

On May 30, 1998, after 3,000 hours of talk-show programming, Peter Gzowski's CBC Radio show went off the air. For 15 years, *Morningside* had been a daily ritual for many people. Gzowski interviewed both the famous and not-so-famous. For everyone, Gzowski's program was the place to be heard. It gave an instant career boost to many talented Canadians who might otherwise have gone unnoticed. Steven Page, lead singer for the Barenaked Ladies, put it this way: "People would come up to us at shows, people of all age groups, grandparents included, and say, 'Oh, I heard you on Gzowski so I had to make the two-hour drive and come see you.' At first, you kind of think, well, geez, *Morningside* is for our parents. But then, as you cross the country, you realize this show is kind of an anchor to remind you that no matter where you are, you're still in Canada."

End of Morningside

## Into the Future

**Besides *Emily of New Moon*, U.S. television networks have produced many shows that feature Canadian characters. How are Canadians portrayed in these U.S. programs? Is this an accurate representation of who Canadians are? Why or why not?**

## 1999

Celine Dion wins five Juno Awards and four Grammy Awards.

## 2000

*Da Vinci's Inquest* wins the Gemini Award for Best Television Drama.

# 1980s

## 1983

### SCTV

*Second City Television* made its debut in 1976. It was a show that made fun of television and its celebrities. It was set in a fictional television station called SCTV, and presented skits of mock newscasts, talk shows, and television specials. The series was drawn from The Second City, a live comedy troupe that performed in Toronto.

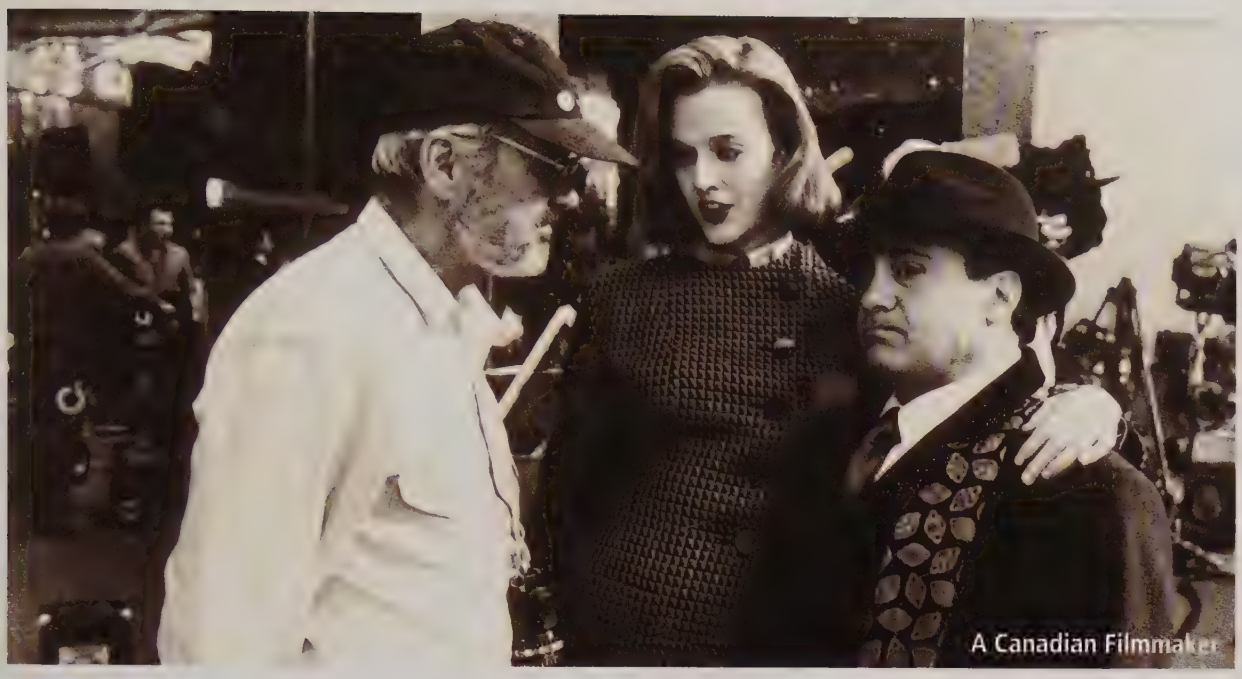
As the show went on, it grew in popularity. By the end of its run in 1983, it had been nominated for 13 **Emmy Awards**, and had won two. There were 185 half-hour episodes produced. *SCTV* was written and performed mainly by Canadian talent. Many *SCTV* cast members got their acting start on the Canadian program, and they went on to become famous movie actors. John Candy, Martin Short, Eugene Levy, Dave Thomas, Rick Moranis, and Catherine O'Hara are a few of the *SCTV* originals who made a name for themselves in film. Also, several *SCTV* characters, such as Martin Short's character Ed Grimley, followed the actors to other comedy programs, including *Saturday Night Live*. One *SCTV* skit became especially popular. Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis played two "hoser" Canadian brothers, Bob and Doug McKenzie. They exaggerated some Canadian features. They wore plaid shirts and toques, and spoke with strong Canadian accents. Bob and Doug became so popular that a movie called Strange Brew was created to feature these characters.

SCTV

**1981**
Canada's Wonderland, the country's largest amusement park, officially opens.

**1982**
Pianist Glenn Gould dies.

**1983**
"Up Where We Belong," co-written by Buffy Sainte-Marie, wins the Academy Award for Original Best Song.



A Canadian Filmmaker

**1984**

## A Canadian Filmmaker

Many of Hollywood's most popular films owe a great deal to Canadians in one way or another. During the 1980s, Norman Jewison directed several movies. Norman was born in Toronto. He began his career as an actor at the age of five. Norman later became a director and **producer** of films. In 1984, Norman directed a film called *A Soldier's Story*. The next year, he directed *Agnes of God*. Each film was nominated for three Academy Awards. The 1987 film *Moonstruck* was perhaps Norman's most popular film. Starring Cher and Nicholas Cage, *Moonstruck* won three Academy Awards and was a box-office success. Norman also began to work with young people interested in film. In 1986, he opened the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies in Toronto. This school helps young directors, producers, and screenwriters get a start in film. Norman was made a Companion to the Order of Canada in 1982.

**1984**

## "Look Up...Way Up"

Millions of Canadian children grew up watching and listening to Bob Homme, who played the Friendly Giant in the television show of the same name. *The Friendly Giant* ran from 1958 until it went off the air in 1984. Bob played the part of a giant who lived in a castle. Friendly was surrounded by his pals Rusty the Rooster and Jerome the Giraffe, both puppets. On every episode, Friendly played an instrument, such as a recorder or a clarinet, while Rusty "played" the harp and Jerome sang along.

**1984**

Cirque du Soleil is founded in Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec.

**1985**

Wilf Carter is inducted to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

on Lucy Maud Montgomery's well-known Canadian children's book, *Anne of Green Gables*. Many Canadian children and adults had read the book. The miniseries introduced the feisty redheaded orphan named Anne to thousands of others. The show's director **auditioned** 3,000 girls in search of the right actress to play Anne. He finally hired Megan Follows, a 16-year-old actress from Toronto. The miniseries was a huge hit. It was eventually seen by millions of people in 145 countries. It won awards in Canada and the United States. *Anne of Green Gables* became one of the most successful Canadian miniseries of all time.

## 1984

### The Nation's Music Station

Although musicians had made videos since the 1960s, it became much more common for musicians to create music videos for their songs during the 1980s. By the end of the decade, nearly every song on the radio had its own video. At first, videos were played on television shows such as *The New Music* out of Toronto. In 1984, MuchMusic became Canada's first 24-hour music video television station. MuchMusic was also based in Toronto. It called itself the "Nation's Music Station," and it played music from across the country. It also played videos by international artists. The "veejays" interviewed musicians and reported on current music news. Two years later, a French language station, MusiquePlus, was started in Montreal.

## 1985

### Anne of Green Gables

In 1985, a television miniseries was created based

## 1986

Michael J. Fox wins his first Emmy Award for his role on *Family Ties*.

## 1987

Bryan Adams wins the Juno Award for Male Vocalist of the Year.

## 1988

*Un zoo la nuit* wins Best Motion Picture at the Gemini Awards.

## 1986

### Expo 86

Expo is an international fair that is held in a different country every few years. From May to October 1986, Expo 86 was held in Vancouver, British Columbia. At that time, it was the largest exposition ever held. The themes of Expo 86 were transportation and communication. Its slogan was "World in Motion—World in Touch." The area for the fair included a covered stadium, a theatre, and the Plaza of Nations. There were 64 different pavilions, or displays. The Northwest Territories was one of the most popular pavilions. It was built of light blue plaster and glass and looked like it contained real icebergs and glaciers. It had displays and films to show visitors what life was like for people in the Canadian North. Expo 86 had 8,000 volunteers to help out throughout the fair. A monorail was built to move people around the exposition site. The monorail moved 10.5 million passengers throughout the fair. Although the exposition lost money, many businesses made money from the many new visitors to the area. Expo 86 was considered to be a great success for Canada, and it launched Vancouver into a new era of growth and expansion.

## Into the Future

*Anne of Green Gables* was a landmark series for Canadian television. The miniseries was an instant hit and was hailed for its Canadian settings and actors. How many Canadian television dramas are currently on the air where you live? How many of them do you watch on a regular basis? What do you like or dislike about Canadian television programming?

## 1989

Ian Tyson is inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Honour.

## 1990

Graham Greene stars in *Dances with Wolves.*

# Entertainment
# 1970s

## 1970

### Open Sesame!

On April 7, 1970, the CBC bought rights to the children's series, *Sesame Street*. It aired the program across the country six months later. Canadian children enjoyed the popular U.S. show that entertained an audience of 8 million five days a week. To buy the show, the CBC was given special exemption from Canadian content rules, which would not have allowed the show to be aired. There needed to be a balance of American versus Canadian programming. To air *Sesame Street* would have upset the balance and created too many American shows. To avoid such problems, *Sesame Street* was not considered Canadian or foreign in origin.

## 1970

### You Will Never Guess...

There was no guessing involved when The Guess Who released their 1970 smash album *American Woman*. The band tried out a new sound and a new image, and it paid off. The Winnipeg band hit number one with the title song all over the world, and it earned $5 million in record sales. There were other huge successes to follow, including the 1972 Best of album. This record stayed on the Top 20 list for 23 weeks. A growing gap in what band members wanted to produce caused The Guess Who to break up in 1976. They occasionally reunited for concerts or tours into the nineties.

Open Sesame!

## 1971

Opera singer Maureen Forester wins the Molson Prize for her contribution to the arts.

## 1972

*The Beachcombers*, one of Canada's longest-running television shows, debuts on CBC.

## 1973

Canada's premier comedy team, The Royal Canadian Air Farce, is created.

## 1970

### The Singing Sweetheart

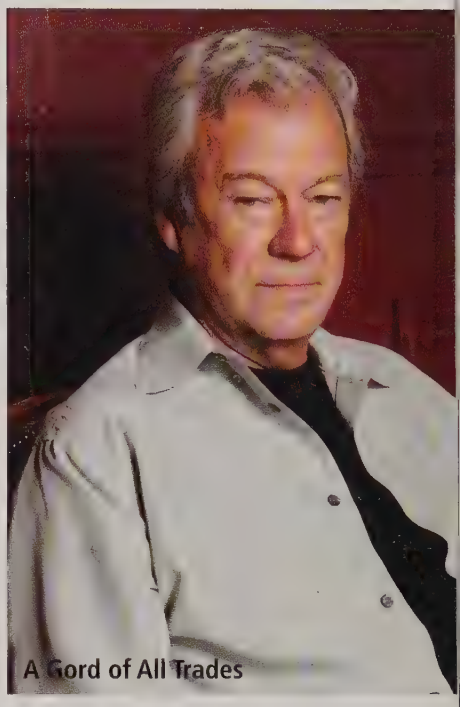
Anne Murray, the Singing Sweetheart of Canada, began entertaining in 1964. She appeared on variety shows including *Singing Jubilee* and *Let's Go*. She was convinced to try her hand at an album. In 1970, Murray released the album *This is My Way*. The hit "Snowbird" made it to Billboard's Top 10. This also marked the first time that an American gold record was awarded to a solo Canadian woman. Her albums sold moderately well until 1973. Then, she released *Danny's Song*. The success of this album led to many other hits, and Murray was named Billboard's second most successful female artist in 1976. In 1978, she won a Grammy Award for best female pop vocal performance. Besides performing several number one hits, she released a children's album and was involved in children's foundations. Murray was also awarded the Order of Canada.

The Singing Sweetheart

## 1972

### A Gord of All Trades

Gordon Pinsent wrote screenplays and novels, and he also acted in their productions. His Newfoundland heritage served as a basis for much of what Pinsent wrote. In 1972, he wrote a screenplay and musical version of *The Rowdyman*. He intended to film the movie in Canada and have control over the production. He also wanted to play the charming yet irresponsible main character in both productions. Pinsent almost accepted an offer from an American studio to buy the script and produce it in the United States. The representative told Pinsent that no one would go to see a Canadian movie without Hollywood names to back it up. At the last minute, Pinsent and Larry Dane, a friend and fellow actor involved with the movie, arranged for the funding in Toronto. As Pinsent had hoped, the movie was filmed in Newfoundland, and he was the star. Pinsent was named Best Actor for *The Rowdyman*, and received an **ACTRA Award** for the CBC series *A Gift to Last*, which he created and in which he appeared.


A Gord of All Trades

## 1974

Group of Seven artist, A. Y. Jackson, dies.

## 1975

*Saturday Night Live*, produced by Canadian Lorne Michaels, debuts on U.S. network television.

What a Rush!

## 1974

### What a Rush!

In the 1970s, Canada finally got the chance to cheer rock and roll guitar idols of their own. Rush, a fast-paced hard rock band formed in Toronto, Ontario, rocked the country starting in 1974. The group was highly regarded for their records and was often called the hardest-working band in the country. It was not unusual for the band to perform 200 concerts in one year. They were named the Group of the Year at the 1978 and 1979 Juno Awards. Rush continued to perform into the 2000s.

## 1975

### Famous People Players Become Famous

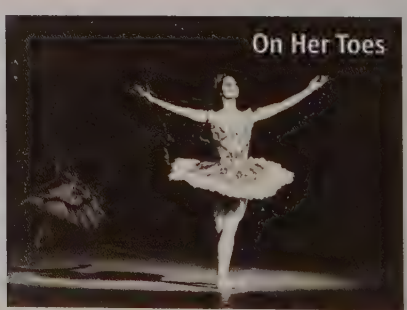
With the help of dedicated young adults with mental disabilities and a never-quit philosophy, Diane Dupuy made the Famous People Players puppet show a huge success. The performers, dressed in black suits and hoods, worked life-sized puppets that looked like celebrities. The puppets were painted with fluorescent paint and ultra-violet light shone on the stage to hide the performers. The audience saw huge puppets and props floating and dancing, seemingly on their own. The Famous People Players opened for Liberace in Las Vegas in 1975. After touring and making television specials, the show made it to Broadway, New York City's most famous theatre district.

Famous People Players Become Famous

## 1977

### On Her Toes

Veronica Tennant was not just a ballerina. She wrote a children's book in 1977 and was an Officer of the Order of Canada. She trained at the famous National Ballet School, and joined the National Ballet of Canada in 1965. She starred in CBC's Emmy-award-winning productions of *Cinderella* in 1968 and *Sleeping Beauty* in 1972. Veronica performed in many ballets, and she earned the right to share the stage with renowned dancers including Mikhail Baryshnikov.


On Her Toes

**1976**
Anna and Kate McGarrigle release their first album.

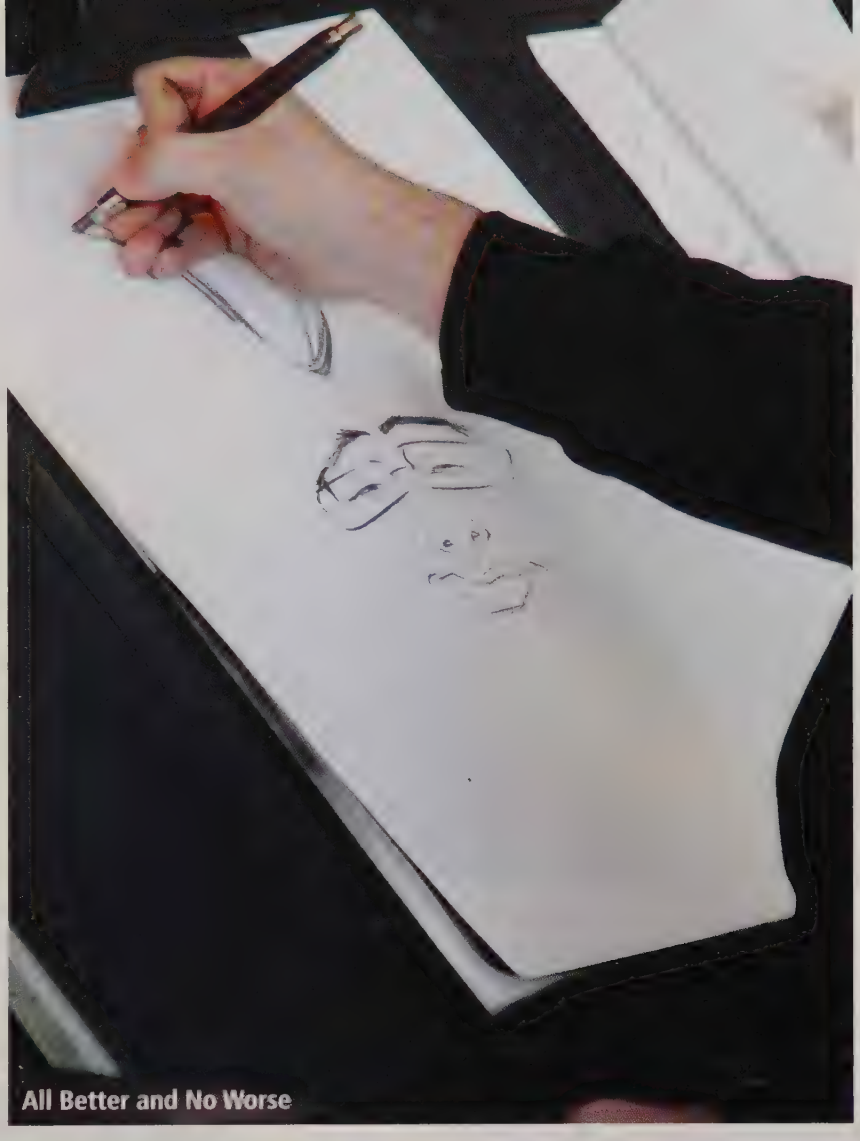
**1977**
*Who Has Seen the Wind*, by W. O. Mitchell, is made into a film.

**1978**
Singer-songwriter Nelly Furtado is born.

## 1979

### All Better and No Worse

Lynn Johnston, one of Canada's most highly-regarded cartoonists, drew her first cartoon for newspaper publication on September 9, 1979. The characters in her famous comic, *For Better or For Worse*, were based on her own family and, unlike many cartoon series, "Elly" and "John" and their children "Michael" and "Lizzie" grew older as the years passed. By 1981, she had picked up around 50 million regular readers across the world. Her daily cartoon strips have appeared in more than 450 newspapers in 19 countries. They have dealt with important and often controversial issues. In 1986, Johnston became the first woman to win the U.S. National Cartoonists Society's Reuben Award.



All Better and No Worse

## Into the Future

**In the 1970s, Canadian musicians often struggled to get their music on the radio. Radio was important to musicians as it gave their music visibility and helped to sell records. What steps did the government take to ensure that Canadian musicians received airplay? How has this helped or hindered Canadian musicians?**

## 1979

The first Degrassi television show, *The Kids of Degrassi*, premiers.

## 1980

Bryan Adams releases his first album.

# 1960s

Mariposa Folk Festival

## 1962

### Mariposa Folk Festival

In August 1962, more than 10,000 young people from all over North America went to Orillia, Ontario, for the second annual Mariposa Folk Festival. These "folkniks" could join in workshops all day and attend concerts all night. The festival lasted for three days. By 1968, it had moved to Centre Island in Toronto, where it became the largest folk music festival on the continent. The greatest attractions were the top-ranking folk performers from both the United States and Canada, including Ian and Sylvia, Joni Mitchell, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Leonard Cohen.

## 1965

### Canada's Country Gentleman

Tommy Hunter won Juno Awards in 1967, 1968, and 1969 as Canada's best male country singer. He began playing rhythm guitar on CBC's *Country Hoedown* in the late 1950s. In 1965, the program was renamed *The Tommy Hunter Show*, and it became one of the most popular variety shows on television. Hunter described it as "a Canadian thumbprint...laid in granite." Fans asked to hear Hunter's theme song, "Travellin' Man," wherever he appeared, in concerts and on his TV show.

Canada's Country Gentleman

## 1961

Actor Michael J. Fox is born in Edmonton, Alberta.

## 1962

The first Shaw Festival is held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Charlottetown Festival

**1965**

## Charlottetown Festival

*Anne of Green Gables*, the musical, opened the first Charlottetown Festival in 1965. It has been performed there ever since. It is Canada's longest-running musical, and it has toured successfully in London, New York, and Japan. Everyone, it seems, loves the orphan with the red hair and the vivid imagination. The Charlottetown Festival takes place from June to September each year in the Confederation Centre of the Arts. This centre was built to commemorate the founding of Canada, so it is not surprising that the festival celebrates Canadian artists and Canadian themes. Over the years, dozens of original musicals have been specially written for the festival, and some have been adapted from Canadian books.

**1967**

## Mr. Dressup

In 1967, Ernie Coombs created his own show on CBC television—Mr. Dressup. He came to Canada from Philadelphia with Fred Rogers to be a puppeteer on a children's program. His friend returned to the United States and created his own very successful show, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, but Coombs stayed on in Canada. The format for *Mr. Dressup* was simple and easygoing. Mr. Dressup was full of ideas for crafts and drawings. The two puppet characters were Casey, a four-year-old who lived in a tree house, and Finnigan, his dog. Mr. Dressup had a Tickle Trunk, a chest full of hand-me-down costumes for dressing up. Mr. Dressup was different from *Sesame Street* and other American children's shows. The pace was slow, and Coombs talked to each viewer as an individual. He did not want to create a spectacle. He gave his audience a quiet time to use their imagination and learn to respect one another. Children, and sometimes their parents, sat still and watched—every day.

Mr. Dressup

**1963**

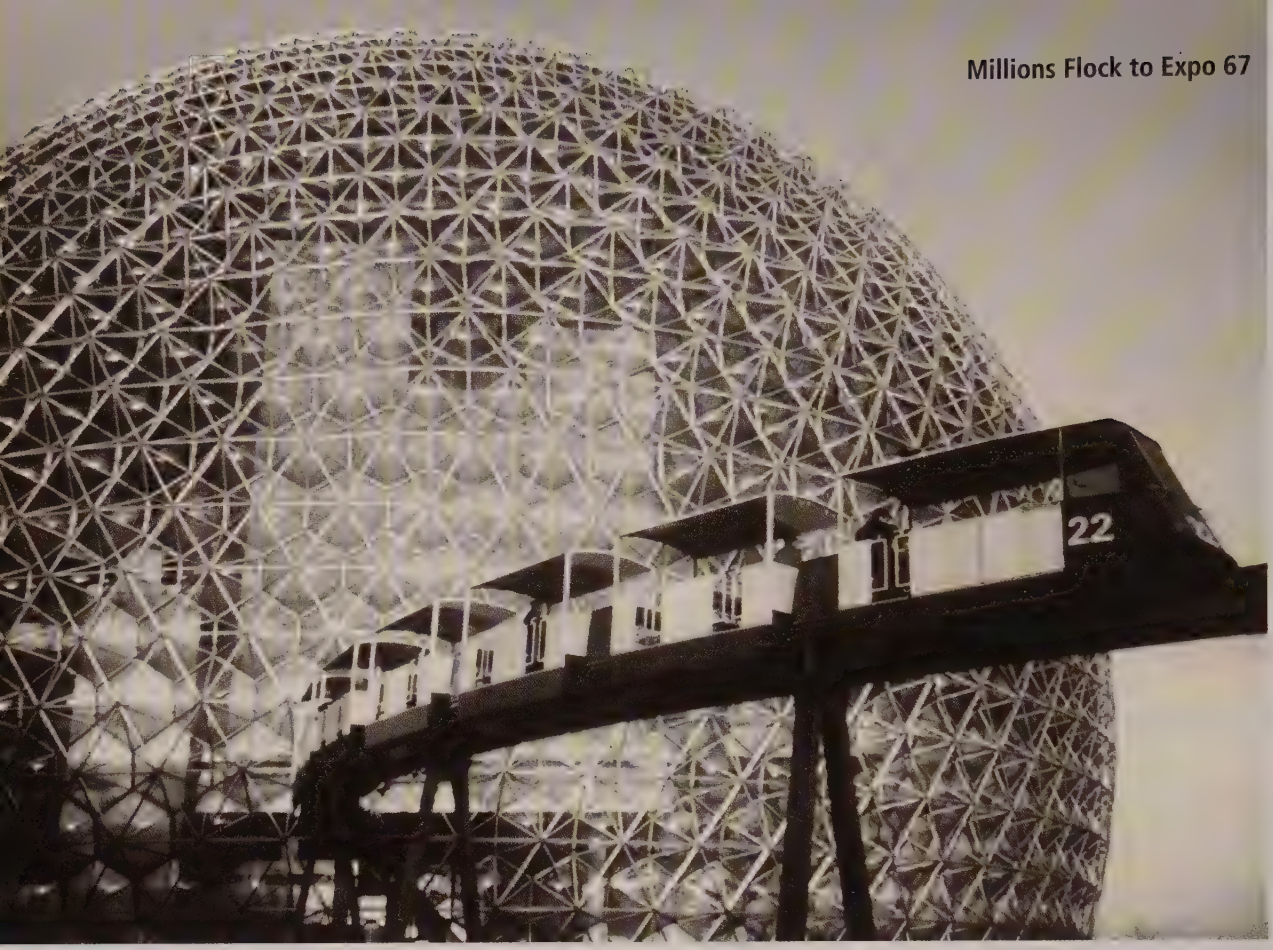
Oscar Peterson composes *Canadiana Suite*.

**1964**

Hugh Le Caine opens an electronic music studio at McGill University.

**1965**

Christopher Plummer stars as Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.




1967

## Millions Flock to Expo 67

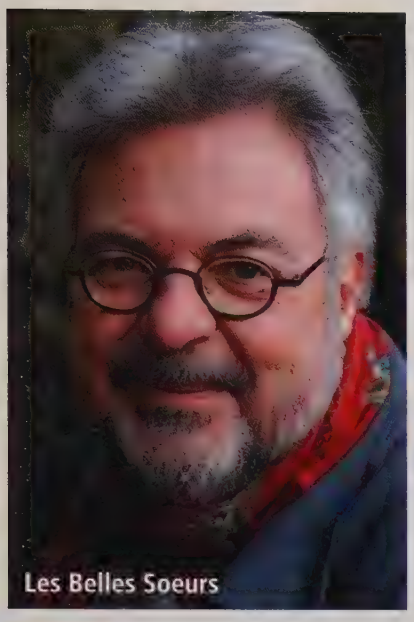
To celebrate its 100th birthday, Canada threw itself a huge birthday bash. Expo 67, a world's fair held in Montreal from April 28 to October 27, 1967, was built on islands in the St. Lawrence. The theme was "Man and His World/Terre des Hommes," and each of the 113 pavilions represented a different country of the world. The Soviet Union displayed serious scientific and industrial advances, the United States emphasized entertainment and fun, and many countries brought exhibits of their culture and history. The architecture of many of the pavilions was breathtaking. Germany built a 15-storey-high multi-peaked plastic tent. Canada displayed a huge upside-down pyramid. The United States built a clear geodesic dome. Even the telephone booths and the food kiosks had sleek, modern designs. During the fair, musicians, opera singers, and actors from some of the world's leading companies performed. There were also international sporting events, film festivals, and art exhibitions. La Ronde, the amusement park, and the Bluenose II, a replica of the famous Nova Scotia fishing schooner, were two of the most popular attractions. The new Montreal subway, the Metro, kept the crowds moving between the city and the fairgrounds. Expo 67 cost $283 million, but it earned $400 million in tourist dollars. More than 50 million people visited the site, including Queen Elizabeth II and visitors from all parts of Canada and the world. The fair was proclaimed the greatest ever, and it made Canadians proud of their country.

**1966**

Neil Young forms rock group Buffalo Springfield along with Stephen Stills and Richie Furay.

**1967**

The Orford String Quartet receives stellar reviews after performing at New York's Carnegie Hall.



Les Belles Soeurs

## 1968

### Les Belles Soeurs

Michel Tremblay had been writing since he was in high school. Since that time, he has produced 22 plays, three musicals, nine novels, and three collections of short stories. He also wrote seven film scripts and 14 translations and adaptations of works. Some of his writing was noticed, but not necessarily for its brilliance. His play Les Belles Soeurs was first performed in Montreal in 1968. It caused a stir in the community because of how painfully realistic it was. The play was set in East Montreal, the working-class district where Tremblay grew up. The characters spoke in street-language as they revealed secrets about themselves.

## 1969

### The Jubilee is Over

"Canada Needs Don Messer, NOT the CBC," read a placard at the protest on April 22, 1969, on Parliament Hill. The CBC had cancelled the popular Maritime folk show, *Don Messer's Jubilee*. There were 300 placard-waving protesters, along with a group of traditional fiddlers and old-time step dancers on the Hill that day. The CBC and newspapers across the land were flooded with letters of complaint. Former prime minister John Diefenbaker even raised the matter in the

The Jubilee is Over

House of Commons. Don Messer began performing at the age of seven in New Brunswick. In 1959, he launched his half-hour weekly *Jubilee* on national television. With Messer as band leader, a "family" of regular singers and instrumentalists performed traditional Maritime folk tunes, jigs, reels, and fiddle music. It was simple and inexpensive to produce, and thousands of loyal fans loved it. For three of its 10 seasons, it had larger audiences than *Hockey Night in Canada*. Yet the CBC cancelled the show at the height of its popularity. "Why?" one viewer wrote to the Toronto Star. "It is one of our best—really good music and clean entertainment."

## Into the Future

**Television plays a big role in the lives of many Canadians, but the country also offers many other forms of entertainment. How many hours per week do you spend watching television? How does this calculate into time spent per year? Compare the time spent watching television to how often you attend plays or other live performances in a year. Why is time spent more on one activity than the other?**

**1968**

*As It Happens* begins airing on CBC Radio.

**1969**

Comedian Rick Mercer is born.

**1970**

Donald Sutherland stars as Hawkeye Pierce in the movie *M*A*S*H*.

# 1950s

## 1950s

### Our Pet, Juliette

It was partly because she looked so young and innocent that she was known as "Our Pet, Juliette." Born of Ukrainian-Polish parents, Juliette Sysak was only 15 when she first sang on CBC Radio. She quickly gained a large number of fans, and she was soon appearing regularly on country music shows. Before long, Juliette had her own show, *Here's Juliette*. Like many other radio stars, Sysak moved over to television in the early 1950s. During the late 1950s, her show *Juliette* was one of the most popular programs on CBC Television. "She's so warm and folksy," said an admirer. "That's Juliette's charm. You feel she's one of the family."

## 1950

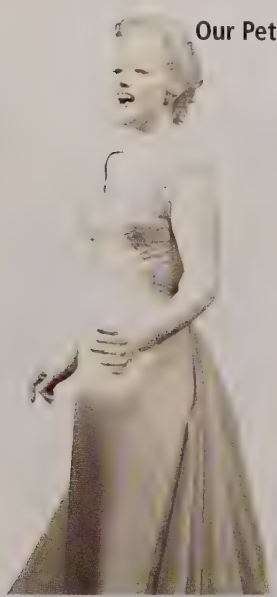
### Jake and the Kid

Canadians who enjoyed reading W.O. Mitchell's "Jake and the Kid" stories in Maclean's magazine could now hear them on CBC Radio. Actor John Drainie played the role of Jake, the hired man, who befriends the 12-year-old "kid." The radio series began in June 1950 and ran for several years. The series gave an appealing picture of life in a small Saskatchewan community. The stories were later adapted for television.

## 1950

### Wayne and Shuster

Canadians Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster had people laughing all over North America. "The Wayne and Shuster Show" had been a CBC Radio hit for many years. In 1950, the two comedians began to appear on American television. On May 4, 1958, they performed on "The Ed Sullivan Show," doing their most famous skit. It was about the murder of Julius Caesar, in which Caesar's wife recalls: "If I told him once, I told him a thousand times, I said, 'Julie, don't go!'" This was their biggest audience ever. Suddenly, Wayne and Shuster had millions of fans. "It's a mixture of **slapstick**, pantomime, visual tricks, and sheer corn," wrote one admirer.



Our Pet, Juliette

Jake and the Kid

Wayne and Shuster

## 1951

The National Ballet of Canada gives its first performance.

## 1952

Television broadcasting begins in Canada.

## 1953

Artist David Milne dies.

Celia Franca

1952

## Celia Franca

"I would like to think of our National Ballet developing and maturing year after year until it becomes part of Canadian life." Ballerina Celia Franca made this statement in 1952, one year after founding the National Ballet of Canada. Franca was a principal dancer until 1959, and she was artistic director until 1974. She also helped form the National Ballet School, which was started by her friend Betty Oliphant.

1952

## Little Rooster Leads the Way

*Tit-Coq*, the first full-length play by Gratien Gélinas, was immensely popular. For two years, the French version played to packed audiences at Montreal's Monument National Theatre. Then, there were 200 performances of the English version. In 1952, the work was made into a film, with Gélinas in the lead role. The play was also a hit on Broadway. *Tit-Coq* (Little Rooster) was the nickname of a young army private who returns home after World War II and finds that his fiancée has married someone else. It was a story people knew all too well. The war had broken up many love affairs. Tit-Coq's story clearly struck a chord with many people. French Canadians especially enjoyed the play because it was performed in Quebecois French, rather than more formal Parisian French. People liked seeing and hearing about characters so like themselves.

Little Rooster Leads the Way

1954

**Elmer Iseler founds the Toronto Festival Singers**

1955

**Glenn Gould makes his first recording of *The Goldberg Variations*.**

## 1953

### Shakespeare Comes to Ontario

Who would have thought that a theatre festival in Stratford, Ontario, would do so well so quickly? It started in a very small way in the summer of 1953. There was no theatre building—just a tent, in which rows of chairs were arranged around a stage. To attract an audience, director Tyrone Guthrie hired the famous British actor, Alec Guinness. He hired a good cast of Canadian actors, too. They opened with Shakespeare's Richard III. The audience loved it. From the opening night, it was clear that the project was going to be a success. The idea of staging Shakespearean plays at Stratford had come from Tom Patterson, a local journalist. He had persuaded the town council to put some money toward the project. The summer festival did so well in its first few years that plans for a real theatre were soon under way. The beautiful new building was opened in 1957.

Shakespeare Comes to Ontario

## 1955

### Piano Perfection

Glenn Gould's 1955 recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* brought him worldwide attention. He was called one of the greatest pianists of the day. Gould was only 23 years old, yet he was already well known to Canadian music lovers. Many had heard him on the radio or attended his concerts. He had first performed on CBC Radio in 1952. The critics raved about Gould's playing. It was clear and precise. His technique was superb, they said, and he played with wonderful delicacy. Yet many could not understand Gould's strange personal style at performances. He always brought his own chair to concerts, and he sat very low, so that he seemed to be crouching over the piano. Also, he hummed while he was playing. Unusual? Yes, but his talent made his eccentric habits acceptable.

Piano Perfection

## 1956

Movie director Guy Maddin is born in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## 1957

The Canada Council for the Arts is created to support arts in Canada.

## 1958

*Now That April's Here*, a feature film based on Morley Callaghan's short stories, is released.

## 1955

### Canada's Teen Idol

Paul Anka's 1957 recording of "Diana" rocketed him to fame when he was only 15. When Anka set off on a tour of Great Britain that December, he was mobbed by teenage girls wherever he went. He was given the same noisy reception on his 1958 tour of Australia and Japan. During the following years, Anka gained fame as a songwriter even more than a singer. "My Way," which he wrote for Frank Sinatra, was one of his most famous songs. Another major hit was "She's a Lady."

Canada's Teen Idol

## 1958

### Manitoba Theatre Centre

The Manitoba Theatre Centre was founded in Winnipeg in 1958 by John Hirsch and Tom Hendry. It was the first regional theatre of its kind in Canada. The two directors were determined that people on the Prairies should have the same cultural benefits that were available in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and other big cities. Many people in Manitoba had never seen a play performed by professional actors. Now they were able to do so. The centre also sent actors on tour and ran a theatre school for children and students. It was named by the Canada Council as a model for others to follow.

Manitoba Theatre Centre

## Into the Future

Canadian entertainers, such as Paul Anka, have often had to move to the United States to achieve success in their field. Why do you think this is the case? Can Canadians succeed as entertainers if they remain based in Canada? Why or why not?

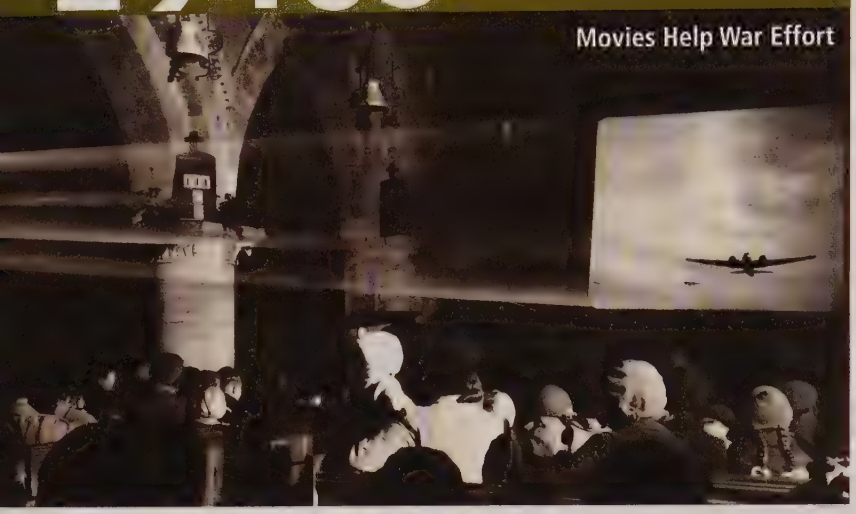
## 1959

Actor Paul Gross is born in Calgary, Alberta.

## 1960

The new building for the National Gallery of Canada opens in Ottawa.

# Entertainment 1940s


Movies Help War Effort

1940s

## Movies Help War Effort

The popularity of movies was used to encourage support of the war. **Newsreels** that showed events filmed by soldiers were played before motion pictures. The movies, most of which were made in the United States and Britain, did more than just entertain Canadians. They made them feel more patriotic. Many movies were about families keeping the home front running while soldiers were overseas. Movies about war service and successful military operations were very common. The National Film Board (NFB) was created in 1939. It wanted to balance the Hollywood images of war in film. Canadian filmmakers set out to show Canada in the war. The NFB became internationally known for **propaganda** films during the 1940s. Films including *Canada Carries On*, a series released once a month, and *World in Action*, produced between 1942 and 1945, brought war messages to Canadians. Canadians were also bombarded by other forms of propaganda. Posters, radio, film, and newspaper pieces were aimed at convincing them how positive the war was, and how important Canada was in the success of the war.

1940s

## Tuning In

Families huddled around their radios listening to a popular form of entertainment in the 1940s—radio plays. During the 1947–48 season, CBC Radio aired 320 radio dramas, written mostly by Canadians. In addition to dramas, CBC produced several radio shows that Canadians listened to without fail. One of the most popular programs was *The Happy Gang*. Introduced during the **Great Depression**, it provided a laugh in hard times. The show's theme song was the "Beer Barrel Polka," but at that time, Canadians could not say "beer" on the radio. Announcers could never say the title on the air. The show began with a knock at the door. When asked who was there, the group response was "It's the Happy Gang!" CBC also produced quality children's programming. Mary Grannan created *Just Mary*—humorous fantasy stories for Canadian children. *The Adventures of Maggie Muggins* was a favourite. This long-running radio program gave rise to a book in 1942. Grannan released *Just Mary Stories* so that parents could read the stories to their children.

Tuning In

**1941**

*Churchill's Island* becomes the first Canadian film to win an Academy Award.

**1942**

Wilfrid Pelletier becomes founding director of the Conservatoire de musique du Québec.

Deanna Durbin

## 1940

### Deanna Durbin

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Edna Mae Durbin took singing lessons at the age of 11. She was soon discovered by a talent agent. Within a few years, teenage Edna Mae captured the attention and adoration of the movie industry as a singing star. She appeared in a short film called *Every Sunday* with Judy Garland. Then, Edna Mae changed her name to Deanna Durbin. The new name came with sudden new fame. There was a flurry of movie roles, many of which focussed on her youth and innocence. In *First Love* in 1939, Durbin had her first screen kiss. The roles that followed became more and more grown-up. *Spring Parade* in 1940 was Durbin's eighth straight hit movie. The 1941 hit *It Started With Eve* was the first in which Durbin played an independent, mature woman. She filmed about 15 other movies in the 1940s alone. In 1948, Deanna Durbin released her last movie and retired from show business.

## 1941

### Walter Huston Wows the Academy

Toronto-born actor Walter Huston moved to the United States when he was 18 years old. He wanted to be a star. He acted in stage plays and **vaudeville** dramas. In 1929, he moved to Hollywood to make it big. His dreams of fame came true. He appeared in memorable Hollywood films such as *The Maltese Falcon* in 1941 and *And Then There Were None* in 1945. He appeared on the screen with Humphrey Bogart as well as with his own son, John Huston. His most noted role was in *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* in 1948. This film had all the elements of a successful movie—panning for gold, greed, and bandits. It was nominated for four Academy Awards. Walter Huston won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, and John Huston won a Best Director Academy Award for the movie.

Walter Huston Wows the Academy

## 1943

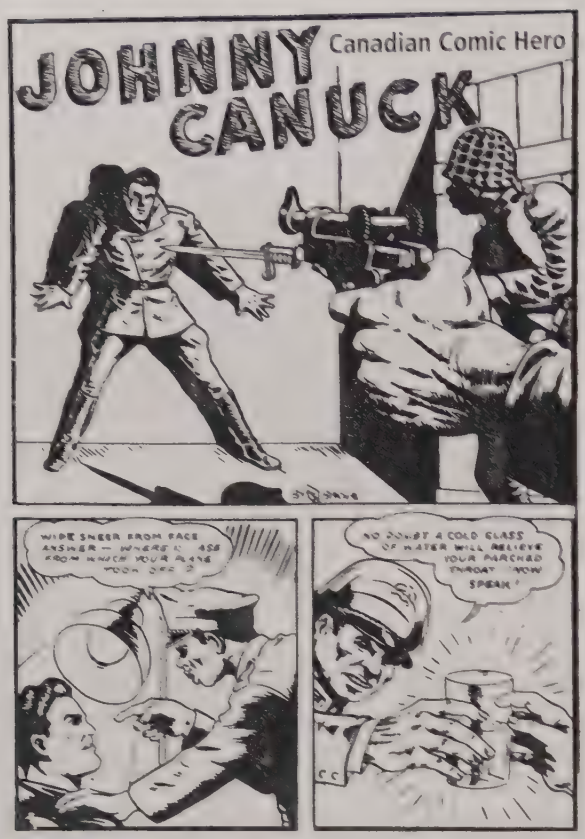
Folk singer Joni Mitchell is born in Fort Macleod, Alberta.

## 1944

The Canadian Stage series launches on CBC Radio to promote Canadian playwrights on CBC Radio.

## 1945

Artist Emily Carr dies in Victoria, British Columbia.




**1941**

## Canadian Comic Hero

During the 1930s, millions of 10-cent comic books were sold every month. In 1940, the War Exchange Conservation Act was enacted, stopping the flow of comic books. The Act prevented Canadians from importing anything that was not essential. This included American comic books. Canadian children went without reading Batman and the Canadian-created Superman. A Toronto publisher named Cy Bell saw to it that children were not without comic books for long. He bought a printing press, hired an artist, and created Johnny Canuck in 1941. Johnny Canuck was the most popular comic of those created during the ban. Unlike many American heroes, Johnny did not have supernatural powers. He was a Canadian soldier waging war against Hitler. He single-handedly defeated stereotypical German and Japanese comic characters. Johnny Canuck was printed until 1946, when the restrictions on imports were relaxed. American publishers could ship comics to Canada for printing. Many Canadian printers laid off their artists, retired their comics, and began reprinting American titles.

**1941**

## The Voice of the CBC

Early in World War II, the Canadian Press brought news from the war to Canada. In 1941, CBC created its own news service to receive word from war correspondents about what was happening. The service quickly earned a reputation for being a fair and reliable information source. The news stories were first read by Charles Jennings and then by Lorne Greene. Greene was called the "Voice of Doom." He received this nickname because of his dramatic way of telling the often bad news from the war front. After the war, Greene founded the Jupiter Theatre in Toronto, and he established and taught at the Academy of Radio Arts. In 1959, he began playing the part of Ben Cartwright on the successful American television program *Bonanza*. He played that role for 14 years. He also focussed his attention on environmental issues and wildlife preservation.

The Voice of the CBC

**1946**

Children's entertainer Fred Penner is born in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**1947**

Vaudeville entertainer Eva Tanguay dies in Hollywood.

**1948**

*Spring Thaw*, a popular Canadian revue, debuts in Ontario.

Artists Paint the War

**1943**

## Artists Paint the War

In 1943, Canadian forces used artists to show the war effort. Artists painted images of recruitment, battle, wounded soldiers recovering in the hospital, and the burial of fallen soldiers. Charles Comfort was a painter and teacher at the University of Toronto. He chose the first group of artists to perform this function. He accompanied them overseas and painted portraits of Canadian soldiers. The artists wore the same uniforms and received the same wages as regular soldiers, but they did not fight. However, not fighting did not keep the artists safe. They were caught in the middle of air raids and attacks. One artist was trapped behind enemy lines for a week before being rescued. Another's ship was sunk, and he waited for hours in an unstable lifeboat. These men were an important part of the war. They illustrated the efforts of the country's soldiers in a way that all Canadians could understand. The art was later brought home for viewing. The artists provided a unique record of the war.

**1946**

## New Play Society

Established in 1946, the New Play Society (NPS) was the first professional theatre created by Canadians. Dora Mavor Moore founded the society after working in the theatre business for 40 years. At 60 years old, she was a teacher, producer, and director. She also founded the Village Players, an amateur acting troupe. Moore worked hard to make the NPS a reality. She hoped to create a professional theatre organization that would train and give work to Canadian actors, technicians, and writers so that they would not have to leave Canada to find jobs. It took some time before she could present Canadian plays. Unknown Canadian plays and playwrights were hard to sell to an audience. However, NPS eventually became successful, and Dora Mavor Moore and her son Mavor Moore looked for more Canadian plays to produce. By the end of 10 seasons, NPS had produced 72 plays, 47 of which were originals. Her contribution to Canadian theatre has never been matched.

## Into the Future

**A country's history and culture is often best represented through artistic pursuits, whether the art be paintings, movies, music, or television shows. Have you observed Canadian history through a painting or a movie? What did you learn about the country from that experience?**

**1949**

The Canadian Repertory Theatre is formed in Ottawa.

**1950**

Hank Snow's "I'm Movin' On" stays on the music charts for 44 weeks.

# 1930s

The Swing Era

1930s

## The Swing Era

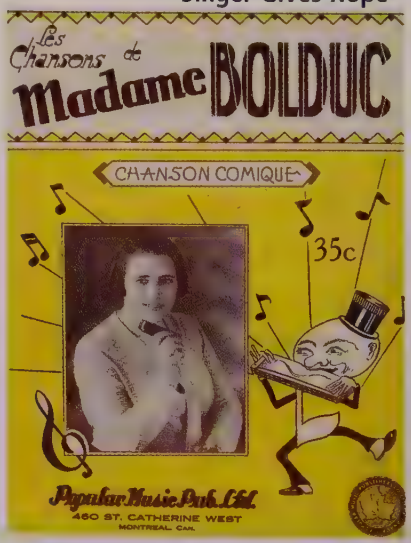
The 1930s were known as the "swing era" and the "big band era." One of the best-known musicians was Louis Armstrong. He made music called swing popular. As the name suggests, this music had a lively, upbeat rhythm that lifted people's spirits. This sound was soon adopted by the big bands of Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, and Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians. Big bands got their name from the large group of instruments they used—including saxophones, trombones, trumpets, clarinets, and a rhythm section of piano, bass, drums, and guitar. The big bands played dance music and featured vocalists, such as Frank Sinatra and Connie Boswell, who enchanted audiences with their romantic lyrics. Most of the songs Canadians listened to came from the United States. Famous American big bands played to packed houses in Canada. Everywhere, groups of young people across Canada scraped together enough money to form their own bands and move from town to town in "one-night stands."

1930s

## Singer Gives Hope

French-Canadian entertainer Mary Travers-Bolduc made the Great Depression a little more bearable for Canadians. She made them laugh during hard times with her witty songs. She sang about everyday life for everyday Canadians in the 1930s. Bolduc's singing career began in music festivals with friends. People were impressed by her talent and the spirit that shone through when she sang and played the fiddle. By the end of the 1920s, she was writing her own songs and was offered a contract for five albums. When the Great Depression hit Canada, she sang songs with funny lyrics that gave people hope. Her first hit, "La Cuisinière" (The Cook), was a favourite among people who held on to humour and hope in desperate times. As the Depression continued, more people were unemployed. Bolduc became a voice of hope and courage. Mary Travers-Bolduc was in demand. She toured Quebec and New England, bringing her strong words and voice to thousands of people.

Singer Gives Hope




**1931**

Mart Kenney and His Western Gentlemen begin taking their big band sound across the country.

**1932**

Marie Dressler wins the Academy Award for Best Actress.

**1933**

Toronto's Telegram begins publishing a Canadian comic strip called *Men of the Mounted*.

1930s

## Radio Shows

Radio Shows

Like television today, radio was the focus of many homes. It provided drama, sports, music, news, and comedy. Virtually all radio shows were live. This made for many embarrassing slips. For example, an announcer once called British politician Stafford Cripps "Stifford Crapps." Despite these slip-ups, radio was very popular. Perhaps the most loved Canadian radio show was *The Happy Gang*, which played music and told corny jokes. Listeners often mailed in their own corny jokes. Radio dramas were also popular. Squeaking floors, devilish laughs, screams, and good plots kept listeners on the edge of their seats. H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* was so realistic that many people actually believed that Earth was being invaded from outer space. This was the era of radio comedy. When Jack Benny began broadcasting in 1932, he found it difficult telling jokes into the speaker, so he created the first studio audience. Benny pretended to be very stingy with his money, and on every program the other cast members made fun of him for it. In one broadcast, a "robber" approached Benny and demanded "Your money or your life." Then followed the longest pause in radio history. Listeners began to laugh as they got the joke. Finally, Benny said, "All right. I'm thinking about it."

**1934**

Poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen is born in Montreal, Quebec.

**1935**

Actor Donald Sutherland is born in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Hockey Night in Canada

1930s

## Hockey Night in Canada

"He shoots! He scores!" In the 1930s, these words were heard in almost every town in Canada. The Leafs games in Mutual Street Arena in Toronto were broadcast locally over radio station CFCA. Beginning on January 1, 1933, listeners from coast to coast could hear Foster Hewitt's play-by-play broadcasts of the Leafs' Saturday night games from Maple Leaf Gardens. This was one of the first Canadian radio programs for a national audience. Soon, Hewitt's vivid descriptions attracted large audiences. By 1934, more than one million fans listened in to Hewitt's famous opening line, "Hello Canada and hockey fans in the United States and Newfoundland." That year, an estimated 72 percent of all Canadian radio sets tuned into his broadcast of the Stanley Cup semi-finals. After the playoffs, 90,000 listeners wrote to thank Foster Hewitt. By the end of the decade, Hockey Night in Canada's audience had increased to more than 2 million listeners, and Hewitt was receiving letters from places as distant as lighthouses on the East Coast, trawlers off the North Atlantic fishing banks, and Hudson's Bay trading posts in the North.

1932

## America's Canadian Sweetheart

Mary Pickford was born in Toronto in 1892. At that time, her name was Gladys Marie Smith. Her parents were both actors and Smith followed in their footsteps. Called "Baby Gladys Smith," she began her acting career at the age of six. In 1907, she changed her name to Mary Pickford. Pickford acted all the time. She did not have time to go to school, so she taught herself to read. All of her hard work paid off. In 1908, at the age of 16, Pickford starred in her first film. She was now being called "the girl with the golden hair." By 1909, Pickford was in high demand. She made 51 films, and by the time she was 20, she had appeared in 176 movies. In the United States, her nickname was "America's Sweetheart." She was also called "the World's Sweetheart." Mary Pickford soon reduced her heavy acting load. She turned her attention to writing and producing movies instead of starring in them. More importantly, in 1919, she helped to start United Artists Studio, which was later bought by MGM. Pickford knew what movies would work and what ones would flop. Later, she helped to create the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that awards Academy Awards to the best motion pictures and performers. In 1932, Mary made her final film, *Star Night at the Coconut Grove*. It was her 263rd movie. Mary Pickford died on May 29, 1979. She is still thought of as a film industry legend.

America's Canadian Sweetheart

1936

The CBC is formed.

1937

Canada's Happy Gang radio program debuts in Ontario.

## 1932

### Fay Wray Conquers King Kong

Fay Wray was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, in 1907 and was raised in Los Angeles, California. She began acting in 1923 and met with immediate success when she starred in *The Wedding March* in 1928. When people think of Wray, they often think of screaming. Her shrill shriek was heard throughout her most famous movie. She starred as the beauty who captured the beast's heart in *King Kong* in 1933. Fay Wray also wrote many plays and stories, as well as the story of her life entitled *On the Other Hand*.

## 1936

### Mounties in the Movies

North Americans loved the image of the Mountie. Mounties were used in many movies as a symbol of the honourable Canadian. In 1936, American actor Nelson Eddy played a Canadian Mountie in *Rose Marie*. In the plot, Eddy falls in love with a beautiful singer, played by Jeannette MacDonald, but MacDonald is not who she seems. She is hoping to rescue her brother who has escaped from prison after killing a Mountie. When Eddy discovers her real purpose, he has to choose between duty and love. Of course, he chooses duty.

Fay Wray Conquers King Kong

Mounties in the Movies

## Into the Future

In the early 1900s, radio was the primary way in which Canadians were kept informed and entertained. How has technology advanced the ways we can be entertained today? What kinds of technology will we be able to use in the future for entertainment?

## 1938

Singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot is born.

## 1939

Canada's National Film Board is created.

## 1940

Game show host Alex Trebek is born in Sudbury, Ontario.

1920s

## Radio's Best Years

The 1920s were radio's best years. Everyone wanted to have a radio, and owning one was a status symbol. A good radio cost as much as a car, although handy individuals could make their own sets, called crystal sets, for a few dollars. In the evenings, families gathered around the radio in the living room for entertainment. Radio programming included music, news, lectures, and concerts. A Saturday night hockey game was first broadcast in February 1924. At this time, Canada had 51 radio stations compared to more than 200 stations in the United States. Canada's most powerful station was the Canadian National Railway's CNRO. It supplied its trains with radio receivers in 1923 so that passengers could be entertained during their journey. Because some stations shared air space, problems sometimes arose. For example, CJCA was broadcasting the Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney heavyweight championship fight in the United States when its time ran out. The other station then began broadcasting a religious program. To complicate matters, CJCA continued to transmit the boxing match. Listeners heard a mixture of both programs. Radio advertising began by accident. One day, the afternoon announcer for Montreal's CKAC showed up for work wearing a new hat. The on-air announcer asked, "Where did you get that beautiful hat?" "In Michaud's on Craig Street," he replied. The next day, hundreds of orders for similar hats flooded Michaud's. When the hatmaker paid the station for similar "plugs," radio advertising was born.

Radio's Best Years

**1921**
The Capitol Theatre opens in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**1922**
*Nanook of the North*, the first film to be called a documentary, is released.

**1923**
The Toronto Symphony Orchestra gives its first concert.

Canada at the Movies

1920s

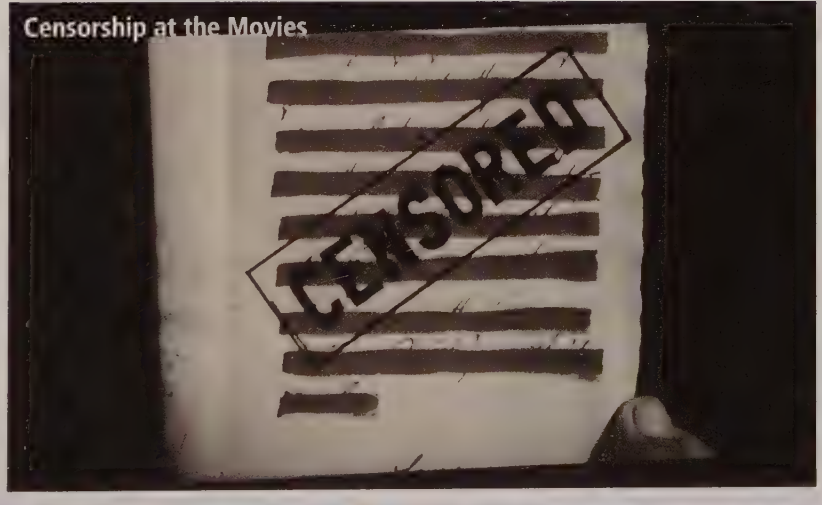
## Canada at the Movies

Films such as *Cameron of the Royal Mounted* and *The Man from Glengarry* were popular in the 1920s. These two and others like them were made by Ernest Shipman, a movie producer born in Hull, Quebec. However, small companies like his had a hard time competing with the movie companies in Hollywood. That was where the action was, so that was where many Canadian actors and filmmakers went. Many Canadian stories were made into films by American companies. In 1922 and 1923, for example, Hollywood made 65 movies that were set in Canada. Few of these movies were actually filmed in Canada. Canadian writer Ralph Connor's novel *The Sky Pilot* was a fast-paced frontier story of good versus evil. The movie was supposed to be set in the Canadian Rockies, but Hollywood filmed the movie in California with all the trappings of the American wild west—saloons, gunfights, and cowboy outfits!

1920s

## Censorship at the Movies

The immense popularity of movies troubled some Canadians. Since most movies came from the United States, Canadians were afraid that American ideas might influence young moviegoers. What young people saw on the screen might negatively affect their behaviour. At that time, movies were not classified for different age groups, so young people were able to watch any movie released. Each province, therefore, created its own **censorship** board to decide what movies should not be shown and what sections or scenes should be removed. The censor's job was to take out any questionable content and to make sure that all movies had some educational value. In Saskatchewan, the censorship board was instructed to watch for scenes that showed drunkenness, especially if there were women in the scene. The censor also looked for anything that was violent or criminal, such as murder or robbery. Scenes showing men and women living together without being married were cut out, as were those showing women who were improperly dressed. Despite the large number of topics that were reviewed, only about 2 percent of the movies examined were rejected during the decade.




Censorship at the Movies

1924

Actor and comedian Don Harron is born in Toronto, Ontario.

1925

The Vancouver School of Applied and Decorative Arts begins classes.

1920

## The Group of Seven

They called themselves The Group of Seven in May 1920, when they held the first exhibition of their paintings at the Art Gallery of Toronto. Critics of the exhibition called it "hot mush," "Hungarian goulash," and "bad taste," but criticism did not bother the seven young artists. In fact, they loved it, because it stirred up publicity and brought them attention. Their paintings created an excitement about art. The group painted Canadian scenes in bold colours. It was a style that tried to capture the spirit of the country. Their opening exhibit was a challenge. They were asking Canadians to stop looking to Europe for art and to accept art produced by Canadians for Canada. The members of the group became national heroes and the dominant force in the art world in Canada. They were among the first artists to introduce a truly Canadian art style. No other group of artists has made such a deep and lasting impression on the people of Canada.

1927

## Emily Carr

Canada's best-known female painter lived an unconventional and solitary life on Vancouver Island. Emily Carr shocked people when she wheeled her pets—dogs, cats, and a monkey named Woo—in a baby carriage to the local grocery store in Victoria. Eyebrows raised when she installed pulleys on her living room ceiling to lift the furniture high off the floor to make space for a studio when she wanted to paint. This was clearly no ordinary woman. Emily Carr made many trips to Aboriginal villages along the Vancouver Island coast. There, she painted totem poles, Aboriginal people's homes, and coastal landscapes that caught her interest. She tried to catch the "bigness of nature" on her canvases. Shapes, foliage, and the strong colours of nature were what she attempted to interpret when she painted. Carr's art was criticized and misunderstood in Victoria. She finally received support of her art when Eric Brown of the National Gallery of Canada discovered her work and told the Group of Seven about her. This encouraged her to continue painting in her own style. In 1927, the National Gallery organized an exhibition of West Coast Aboriginal Art, and 27 of Carr's canvases were displayed.

1926

Comedic actor Leslie Nielson is born in Regina, Saskatchewan.

1927

The National Gallery of Canada holds its first exhibit of Emily Carr's art.

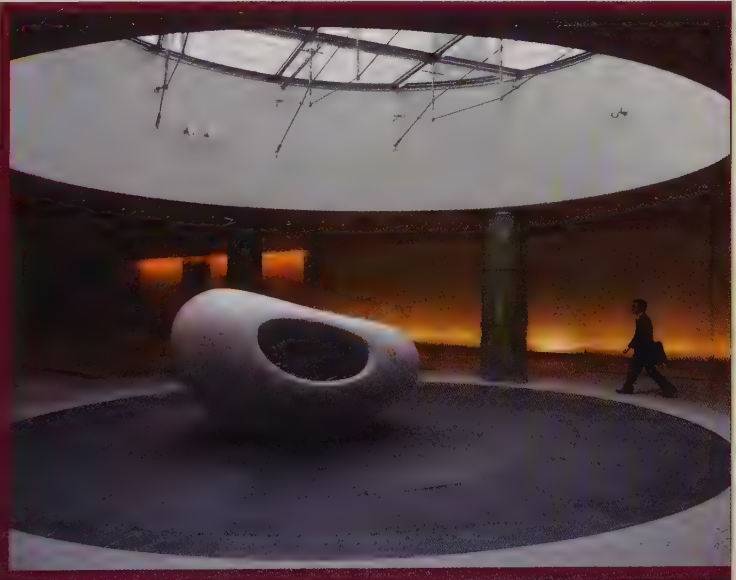
**1927**

## Talking Pictures

The first talkies were made in 1927, so for most of the decade people still watched silent films. Live music from an orchestra, subtitles, and sound effects were used to add to the drama. Compared to the previous decade, movies were longer, and the characters and plots were more developed. Comedy was the most popular type of silent film. With no spoken dialogue and the need for short subtitles, the humour was usually slapstick—people got hit on the head, fell into holes, or were smacked in the face with custard pies. Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin, and Mary Pickford were the stars of the silent comedy. Charlie Chaplin created a famous character know as the Little Tramp—a man with baggy trousers, a funny walk, and sadly expressive face. Canadian-born Mary Pickford co-starred in many of Chaplin's films, acting the innocent-eyed heroine. She was known as "America's Sweetheart"—the most popular movie actress of her day.

## Into the Future

**Art is a subjective way of communicating. It presents ideas in ways that are personal and unique to the artist. Sometimes, the ideas are difficult to understand as a result. This can lead to harsh criticism and even censorship of the artist's work. Can you think of any recent examples of artists—visual or performing—who have been maligned for the ideas or opinions their work is presenting? What caused the criticism? Was it justified?**



**1928**

Artist Allen Sapp is born on the Red Pheasant Reserve in Saskatchewan.

**1929**

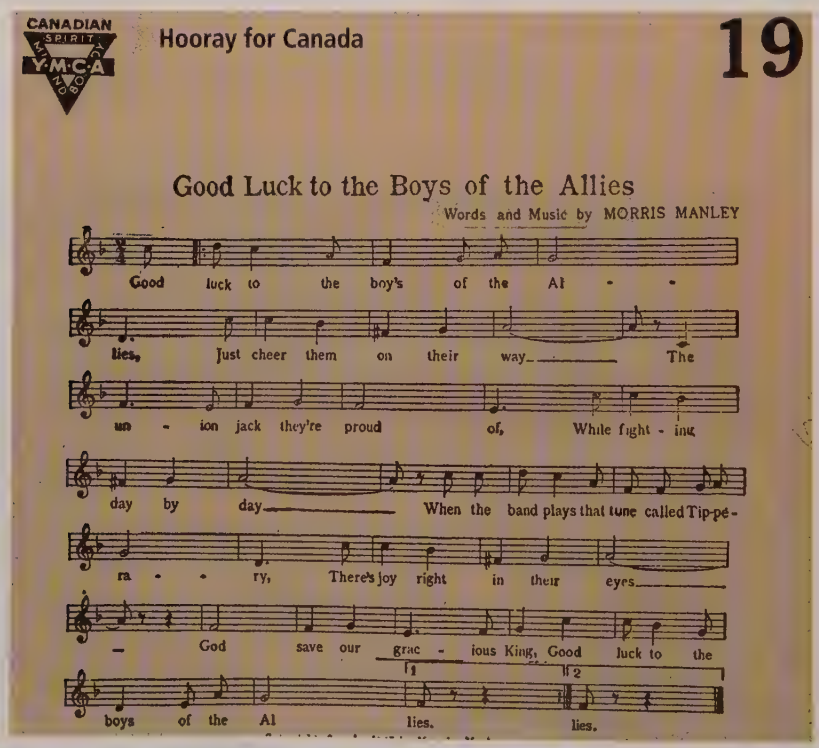
The Lombardo New Year's Eve Party debuts and later becomes the longest-running annual special program in radio history.

# 1910s

## 1910s

### Hooray for Canada

Canada had previously been content to mostly play music written by Americans and Britons, but World War I brought Canadian songwriters to the surface. National pride swept Canada in the 1910s. There was a high demand for patriotic songs. Americans were not involved in the war until 1917, so they did not influence the war songs sung north of their border. Several war hits were released, including "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall," "Good Luck to the Boys of the Allies," and "When Your Boy Comes Back to You." They were all well known in Canada and all composed by Canadians. The fact that these songs were virtually unknown in the rest of the world did not matter. What was important was that they reflected the feelings of Canadians during the Great War.


CANADIAN SPIRIT
Y·M·C·A
Hooray for Canada
19
Good Luck to the Boys of the Allies
Words and Music by MORRIS MANLEY
Good luck to the boys of the Al - -
lies, Just cheer them on their way The
un - ion jack they're proud of, While fight - ing
day by day When the band plays that tune called Tip-pé-
ra - - ry, There's joy right in their eyes
God save our grac - ious King, Good luck to the
boys of the Al lies. lies.

## 1912

### Keystone Cops

Mack Sennett left Quebec when he was 17 years old. His dream to become an opera singer was redirected when he met another Canadian working in the United States, Marie Dressler. He decided to try his hand at the big screen rather than the stage. He began acting in movies with Biograph Studios, the same company that helped make Mary Pickford a household name. He quickly moved from acting to directing. In 1912, Sennett co-founded the Keystone film company. This company created an energetic style of comedy that would soon be associated with slapstick comedy in the theatres. Famous actors including Mabel Normand, "Fatty" Arbuckle, Chester Conklin, and Charlie Chaplin starred in his films. The crazy antics of the "Keystone Kops" were a regular feature of the company's films. After 1917, Sennett formed his own company and continued to produce silent movies until the 1930s.

Keystone Cops

## 1910

Canada's daily newspapers create a cooperative news gathering service called Canadian Press Limited.

## 1912

The first Calgary Stampede rodeo is held.

Silent Movie Star
While Dolores was being forced to the wall inside, her father fought the other villain outside the cabin door.
Nell Shipman
"Back to God's Country"
James Oliver Curwood

## 1916

### Silent Movie Star

Vancouver-born Nell Shipman was a writer, producer, director, and actor in the 1910s. At 18, Shipman sold the rights to her book called *Under the Crescent*. Universal Pictures made it into a serial. This was her first of many successful experiences with movies. Shipman earned a solid reputation in the entertainment business, but the world was not really introduced to her until 1916. She became an overnight success with her starring role in *God's Country and the Woman*. Shipman produced, directed, and acted in the film. It was one of the first movies to be shot almost entirely on location instead of a studio set. The newness of it added to the movie's success. Shipman's fame continued with *Back to God's Country* in 1919, which was filmed in Calgary. Her husband, movie promoter Ernest Shipman, produced the film. The romantic adventure story of a woman battling evil was a smash hit. Shipman went on to produce and star in several other movies with outdoor themes. Her movies were full of stunning scenery and trained wild animals. She used these animals to make her outdoor sets realistic. Shipman's popularity started to decline in the 1920s. The Canadian-made movie boom was over. She sold her studio and animals and turned her attention to novels and screenwriting. She is remembered as a strong businesswoman and a pioneer of outdoor cinema.

## 1917

### Chautauqua Comes to Canada

In June 1917, John M. Erickson brought Chautauqua from New York to Canada. The show was made up of several forms of entertainment, from puppet shows and magic to musical numbers and lectures, played out over four to six days. Five prairie towns agreed to pay the extra if the cost to put on the show was more than the ticket sales, and the stage was set. The show included the talented Canadian baritone Ruthven MacDonald and the Waikiki Hawaiian Quintet. Chautauqua began in Mission, British Columbia, and moved across the Prairies after a five-day stint. It eventually pushed into Ontario, Quebec, and the Canadian North. Keeping a travelling show of this size moving was quite a feat. Fifty young men looked after the tents, and 80 women helped organize committees and ensured that the show ran smoothly. For many people in small towns, Chautauqua was their only chance to watch live plays and enjoy different musical groups.

Chautauqua Comes to Canada

## 1916

Popular dance band Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians is formed.

## 1919

Mary Pickford helps to create a new Hollywood film company called United Artists.

# 1900s

Movie Theatres Come to Canada

1900s

## Movie Theatres Come to Canada

Canada's first permanent movie house was opened in 1902. Called the Edison Electric Theatre, it was located on Vancouver's Cordova Street. At the time, movies were black and white and did not have sound. Musicians in the theatre played along with the film. Four years later, in 1906, Toronto opened its first permanent movie theatre. The Theatorium was only 5 metres wide and 30 metres deep. It was open from 10:00 in the morning until midnight. The first deluxe cinema in Montreal opened in 1907. This new 1000-seat movie house offered comfortable seats instead of kitchen chairs, a checkroom for coats and hats, advanced seating, reserved seats, intermission, and a six-piece orchestra with singers. Admission was expensive—25 to 50 cents! In 1908, Julie and Jay Allen opened a theatre in a store with 150 kitchen chairs. From this modest beginning, they built a 50-movie theatre chain in Canada and the United States.

1900s

## Maurice Cullen

Like other artists of his era, Maurice Cullen went to Paris to study painting. While in France, his work was greatly influenced by Impressionist painters, including Monet and Manet. However, when Cullen returned to Montreal he brought his own interpretations of light and colour to the cityscapes. He was considered one of Canada's best painters of snow. He had a strong influence on future Canadian artists such as A.Y. Jackson of the Group of Seven. Jackson said of Cullen: "To us he was a hero."

Maurice Cullen

James Morrice's Art

1900s

## James Morrice's Art

James Morrice studied law at the University of Toronto before pursuing his talent in art in Paris. Paris was a centre for new art styles like Fauvism and Impressionism. Morrice returned to Canada to visit each year. While in Canada, he painted and sketched scenes of Quebec City and winter landscapes. Some of his most famous canvases are *The Ferry*, *Quebec*, and *The Ice Bridge*. Morrice did not become well-known in Canada until after he died, although his work was popular in galleries in Europe.

**1901**

Annie Taylor becomes the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

**1902**

The Quebec Symphony Orchestra is formed.

## 1901

### Emma Albani

Emma Albani was one of Canada's most talented opera singers. Born Emma Lajeunesse in 1847, she became very popular. When she returned to Montreal to perform, so many people came to hear her perform that Albani had to be lifted over-head from person to person in order to reach her hotel. Albani studied in the United States, Italy, and France. Her teacher in Paris once remarked that "She has a beautiful voice and a sacred fire. She is the wood from which the finest flutes are made." Albani became an international celebrity, and sang at Queen Victoria's funeral in 1901. A soprano, she was the first Canadian to be known internationally in opera and concert singing.

Emma Albani

Recording Inuit Music

## 1903

### Recording Inuit Music

While his whaling boat was frozen in the ice in Hudson Bay, Captain George Comer made the following entry into his daily journal on November 7, 1903: "Had the graphophone out this evening and got a couple of records of native songs. One of them was of the "Kiackennuckmiut." The other was "Iwillic." These recordings were made on wax cylinders played on a phonograph turned by hand. Although two Russian anthropologists had earlier recorded the songs of the Inuit on the Russian side of the Bering Strait in 1902, Comer had made the earliest sound recording of Inuit people in North America. Comer admired the Inuit and their culture. He learned their language. He usually remained for two winters at a time—his ship frozen in harbour from October to late spring. The Inuit came aboard his ship and spent evenings in his cabin exchanging stories. Comer recorded their songs, stories, and dances.

## 1908

### O Canada?

Calixa Lavallee, a child prodigy, wrote Canada's national anthem in 1880. It was first sung at a musical evening at a Quebec City skating rink. Adolphe Routhier wrote the French words. English Canada ignored the song until Robert Stanley Weir wrote the English words in 1908. It is now Canada's official anthem.

O Canada?

**1903**
Novelist and playwright Morley Callaghan is born in Toronto, Ontario.

**1904**
Country singer Wilf Carter is born.

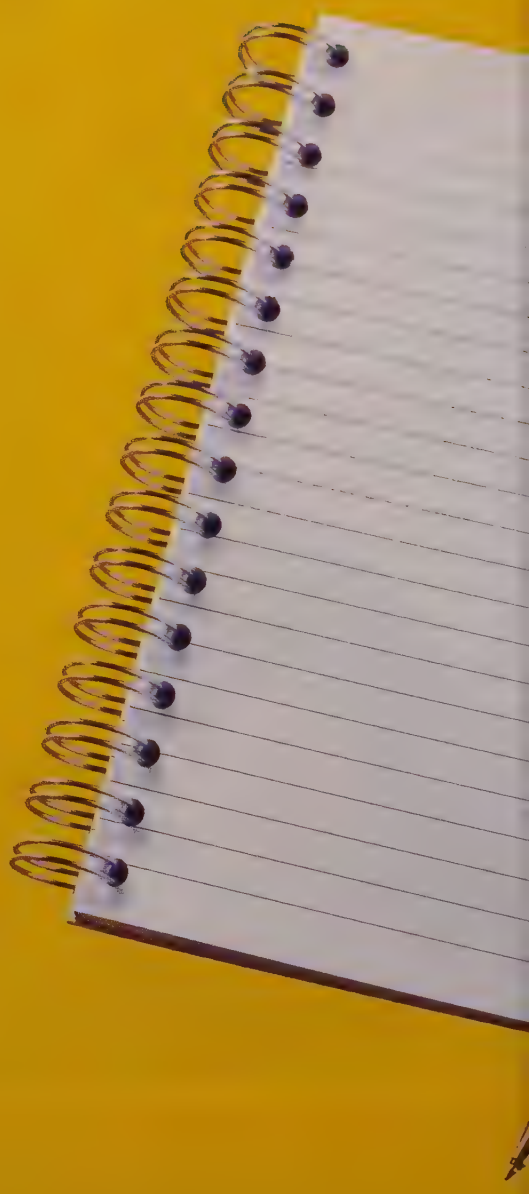
**1909**
Entertainer Don Messer is born in Tweedside, New Brunswick.

# ACTIVITY
# Write a Review

After watching a performance, viewing an art installation, or listening to a song, it is natural to have an opinion about what you have experienced. Some people even get paid to write about their experience and voice their opinions about the entertainment. These people are called critics or reviewers. Their opinions are often published in newspapers and magazines. Some of them even have their own television shows.

Writing a review is not only about opinion, however. A review is meant to inform others about the content of the entertainment, the way it is presented, and how effective it was in presenting an idea.

Think about a television show, movie, concert, or other form of entertainment you recently experienced. What did the performers do well? What areas needed improvement? Use the following guidelines to write a review on what you experienced.



## Introduction

In the first paragraph, offer a description of the book, CD, play, movie, or concert. Explain whether it was a positive or negative experience to watch, read, or listen to it. This opinion forms the thesis, or main argument, you want to make about this work.

## Supporting Paragraphs

In the next two or three paragraphs, make comments that prove the points established in the introduction. If the entertainment was excellent, focus on the elements that made it work, including characters, dialogue, plot, and theme. If the entertainment was lacking in some way, provide examples of these flaws.

## Conclusion

In the final paragraph, provide an overall opinion of the work in question and a recommendation on whether or not others should experience it.

# FURTHER Research

There are many books and websites that can provide more information about entertainment and the performing arts.

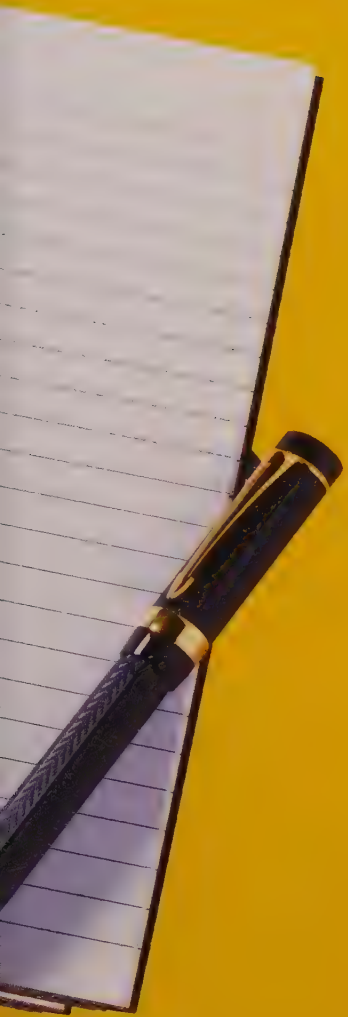
## Websites

Visit Arts Alive to learn more about the arts in Canada.
**http://artsalive.ca/en/**

The following websites list award-winning Canadian movies, television shows, and musical recordings.
**www.genieawards.ca/**

**www.geminiawards.ca**

**http://junoawards.ca/**



JUNO
CANADA'S MUSIC AWARDS
HOME MAP EVENTS PHOTOS SUBMISSIONS PRESS CARAS AWARDS DATABASE
SHANIA TWAIN: 2011 CANADIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE!
CONGRATULATIONS TO SHANIA TWAIN!
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE JUNO AWARDS
Deane Cameron: 2011 Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award Inductee
"A HEART OF GOLD" NEIL YOUNG TO BE HONOURED WITH THE 2011 ALLAN WATERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD
THE DREAM WARRIORS MICHIE MEE, SLOAN, OLD SCHOOL HIP HOP MIXED WITH INDIE ROCK!
JUNO AWARDS TWITTER
OLDER MEDIA RELEASES
THE 2011 JUNO AWARDS WOULD LIKE TO THANK
TORONTO

# Glossary

**Academy Award:** an award given out in the United States to honour excellence in filmmaking

**ACTRA Award:** an award that celebrates excellence in Canada's television, film, and radio industry

**auditioned:** took part in a trial performance

**Billboard:** a magazine that tracks record sales

**censorship:** the act of changing books, letters, and movies to ensure they do not contain controversial material

**Emmy Awards:** awards given out in the United States to honour excellence in television

**Gemini Award:** an award that celebrates excellence in Canadian television programming

**Grammy Award:** an award given out in the United States to honour excellence in music

**Great Depression:** severe worldwide economic collapse in the decade preceding World War II

**grossing:** total sales

**imperialism:** the policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries

**Juno Awards:** awards that celebrate excellence in Canadian music

**newsreels:** short films dealing with recent or current events

**Order of Canada:** an honour awarded in Canada to somebody considered to have made an outstanding contribution to society

**pop culture:** cultural patterns that are widespread within a population

**producer:** a person who controls the finances, creation, and public presentation of a play, film, program, or similar work

**propaganda:** the spread of beliefs and opinions, often by deception and stretching the facts

**recording contract:** a legal agreement between a record company and a recording artist in which the artist makes a record for the company to sell

**revue:** theatrical entertainment that includes singing and dancing

**slapstick:** physical comedy that is rough and exaggerated

**Tony Award:** an award given out in the United States to honour excellence in theatre

**vaudeville:** a light theatrical show interspersed with songs and dances

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